




The Honourable Tim Nicholls MP  
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services

Queensland Legislative Assembly	
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 03 APR 2025	Tabled <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MP: <i>Hon Speaker</i>	By Leave <input type="checkbox"/>
Clerk's Signature: <i>[Signature]</i>	

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27 February 2025

Hon Pat Weir MP  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
Parliament House

Dear Mr Speaker

I refer to comments made by Ms Leeanne Enoch MP, Member for Algester, in the Legislative Assembly on 20 February 2025. During the period allotted for Adjournment Debates, the Member for Algester stated:

*"Last month, without warning, the LNP Minister for Health ordered a blanket statewide halt on any new patients under 18 accessing health services related to gender therapy."*<sup>1</sup>

I submit that in making this statement, the Member for Algester deliberately misled the House and has therefore committed a contempt of Parliament, in breach of Standing Order 266(2).

As you are aware, there are three elements to be proven to establish that a Member has committed the contempt of deliberately misleading the House:

1. The statement must have been misleading;
2. The Member making the statement must have known, at the time the statement was made, that it was incorrect; and
3. In making the statement, the Member intended to mislead the House.

I submit that the Member for Algester had evidence contrary to her statement and deliberately chose to mislead the House. My evidence to support this claim is outlined below.

**The statement must have been misleading**

The Member for Algester stated:

*"Last month, without warning, the LNP Minister for Health ordered a blanket statewide halt on any new patients under 18 accessing health services related to gender therapy."*

This statement is misleading because the Queensland Government's pause of hormone therapy for public patients under the age of 18:

1. Only applies to the provision of Stage 1 and Stage 2 hormone therapy. The pause does not apply to all gender therapies, such as psychiatric and psychological support, counselling, and other clinically recommended medical interventions.

<sup>1</sup> Queensland, *Adjournment Debates*, Legislative Assembly, 20 February 2025 (Leeanne Enoch, Member for Algester).

2. The pause only applies to patients in Queensland Health facilities. It does not apply to private providers and therefore is not 'statewide'.

**The Member making the statement must have known, at the time the statement was made, that it was incorrect**

Details of the Government's pause of hormone therapy for public patients under the age of 18 were published on the Ministerial Media Statements website on 28 January 2025 (Attachment 1), 23 days before the Member for Algester's statement.

The ministerial media statement confirmed the scope of the pause, noting in bold summary text at the top of the page:

*"Immediate pause of hormone therapy for public patients under the age of 18."*

The statement goes on to note:

*"The Director-General will also issue a Health Service Directive to pause the intake of new patients under the age of 18 years for Stage 1 and Stage 2 hormone therapy in Queensland Health facilities."*

*"QCGS [Queensland Children's Gender Service] will continue to offer clinical support for children and adolescents experiencing gender dysphoria including and psychological support, counselling and other clinically recommended medical interventions."*

The Ministerial Media Statements website is the official channel through which the Government makes announcements. Given the Member for Algester's demonstrated interest in this topic, it is reasonable to conclude the Member had read this statement.

**In making the statement, the Member intended to mislead the House**

Upon review of the archived broadcast, the Member for Algester is clearly reading from a prewritten speech, which proves that the Member intended to assert a claim that is factually incorrect.

### **Conclusion**

This evidence clearly outlines that the Member for Algester has failed to uphold the standard expected of Members of Parliament and has deliberately misled the Parliament through her statement made on 20 February 2025.

Children's healthcare is one of the most significant responsibilities we have as a State. Given the seriousness and sensitivity of this topic, I believe that an apology and a referral to the Ethics Committee is justified.

Should you require any further information or any clarification of matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



**Tim Nicholls MP**  
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services  
Member for Clayfield

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## MEDIA STATEMENT: Independent Review into puberty blockers

Published Tuesday, 28 January, 2025 at 10:53 AM

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services  
The Honourable Tim Nicholls

### Independent Review into puberty blockers

- Issues with Cairns Sexual Health Service raise concerns about paediatric gender therapies State-wide.
- Broader review of the evidence for hormone therapy treatment for paediatric gender services to be undertaken.
- Immediate pause of hormone therapy for public patients under the age of 18.

The Queensland Government has instigated a Part 6 clinical review and Part 9 health service investigation into clinical governance issues in Cairns, relating to the provision of paediatric gender services, including Stage 1 (puberty suppression with puberty blockers) and Stage 2 (gender-affirming hormones) hormone therapies.

Together with international evidence and recent policy decisions, these events have raised serious concerns about the provision of Stage 1 and Stage 2 hormone therapy to patients under the age of 18 in Queensland's public health system.

"There is contested evidence surrounding the benefits of Stage 1 and Stage 2 hormone therapy for children and adolescents with gender dysphoria emerging from studies throughout the world," Minister for Health and Ambulance Services Tim Nicholls said.

"France, Finland, Norway, Denmark and Sweden have all tightened regulations around prescribing hormone therapy to children and adolescents.

"More recently, the Government of the United Kingdom has changed legislation to restrict the prescription and supply of puberty blockers to children.

"The Queensland Government has already announced on 4 January 2025 that it does not support expansion of the Queensland Children's Gender Service (QCGS) and it has paused further delivery of the evaluation recommendations, pending further consideration by government.

"Queensland has not yet undertaken its own review of the evidence for Stage 1 and Stage 2 hormone therapy.

"Following the directive to the Director-General of Queensland Health regarding the operation of the Cairns Sexual Health Service, I have also directed the Director General to commission an independently led broad review of the evidence for Stage 1 and Stage 2 hormone therapies for children in Queensland.

"The lead reviewer will be independent of the Department and the Terms of Reference for the review will be settled in consultation with them.

"The purpose of the broader review is to undertake an independent and robust investigation of best practice in this field," Mr Nicholls said.

The review will have a broad focus including engaging of expert clinicians, conducting interviews and receiving submissions from stakeholders, and taking into account any other relevant matters that arise throughout the course of the review."

Children's Health Queensland (CHQ) currently operates the Queensland Children's Gender Service (QCGS), established as a state-wide service in 2017.

As of June 2024, the service had 547 children and adolescents actively receiving care.

"There is a need to maintain confidence in public health services, particularly those delivered by Queensland Health for children," Minister Nicholls said.

"The Director-General will also issue a Health Service Directive to pause the intake of new patients under the age of 18 years for Stage 1 and Stage 2 hormone therapy in Queensland Health facilities.

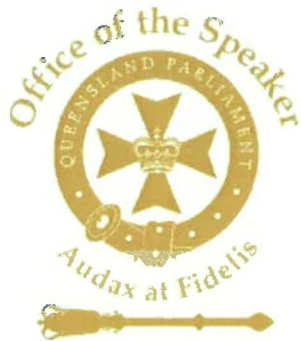
"Patients who are already on a treatment plan with QCGS would be exempt, similar to the steps implemented in the UK," Mr Nicholls said.

The immediate pause will come into effect following today's announcement and will remain until the Government considers and acts on the outcomes of the Review.

QCGS will continue to offer clinical support for children and adolescents experiencing gender dysphoria including psychiatric and psychological support, counselling and other clinically recommended medical interventions.

**ENDS**

**MEDIA CONTACT:** David McLachlan 0428 716 171



Your Ref:

Our Ref: 250306-OUT-Algester

6 March 2025

Ms Leanne Enoch MP  
Member for Algester  
Shops 3 and 4  
137 Parkwood Drive  
Heathwood QLD 4110

By E-mail: [algester@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:algester@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Leanne

The Office of the Speaker received correspondence on 5 March 2025 from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. The said matter concerns whether you have deliberately misled the House. A copy of this correspondence is attached.

Deliberately misleading the House is listed as an example of behaviour that the House may treat as a contempt (see *Standing Order 266 (2)*).

*Standing Order 269 (5)* provides that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, the Speaker may request further information from the person the subject of the allegation. Accordingly, I am writing to you pursuant to that Standing Order.

*Standing Order 269 (4)* provides that in considering whether the matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, the Speaker shall take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter.

I wish to stress that I have not yet formed a view as to whether this particular allegation should be referred to the Ethics Committee. However, as a matter of course, I remind all members who are the subject of such allegations of the long-established convention that should a Member become aware they have inadvertently misled the House, they should, at the earliest opportunity, correct the record and apologise for their inadvertence.

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Should you wish to provide me with further information to assist me in making a determination as to whether the matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee under *Standing Order 269* please provide your response by COB 20 March 2025.

In the meantime, should your office have any queries relating to this matter, they may be directed to my Executive Officer, Coral-Leah Kemp, by email to [Speaker@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:Speaker@parliament.qld.gov.au) or on 07 3553 6700.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat Weir', written in a cursive style.

**HON PAT WEIR MP**  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Enc.



20 March 2025

The Honourable Pat Weir MP  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
Queensland Parliament  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

VIA EMAIL: [speaker@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:speaker@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Speaker

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pat,".

I write in relation to your correspondence dated 6 March 2025 in respect of an allegation made by the Member for Clayfield in correspondence dated 27 February 2025, received by your office on 5 March 2025. I thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Member for Clayfield's claims.

At the outset, I submit that I did not deliberately mislead the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament and further submit that the Member for Clayfield has failed to provide evidence that I have.

In the submission provided to you by the Member for Clayfield he has taken issue with my statement that "health services related to gender therapy" would be halted, as the Member for Clayfield has stated that he has only halted, on behalf of the Crisafulli LNP Government "the provision of Stage 1 and Stage 2 hormone therapy.". The Member for Clayfield has stated that "the pause does not apply to all gender therapies, such as psychiatric and psychological support, counselling and other clinically recommended medical interventions".

I submit that it was clear in my contribution to the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament that I was talking about hormone therapy. This is evident by the full context of my contribution during the Adjournment Statement, and not just cherry picking sections as the Member for Clayfield has done. I draw your attention to page 289 of the Record of Proceedings where I outlined heartbreaking stories from community members, including a young person who said:

*"I have been directly affected by the ban, I was referred in late may of 2023 under a category 2 and have been waiting since to receive any kind updates. When I found out about the halt, I sobbed for 3 hours, it genuinely felt like my reason and motivation for living had been taken away from me.*

*They went on to say –*

*I have hurt myself and attempted to end my own life because of the feelings brought on by gender dysphoria, I have been severely bullied for being trans, gender dysphoria has caused me to dissociate heavily, have panic attacks, and so so so so so much more.*

*Another young person said, 'I no longer want to live if I am denied these hormones.'*  
[emphasis added]

It is clear from my contribution that when I referred to "gender therapy", I was referring to the specific treatment of hormone therapy, as is evident by the contribution around the statement that the Member for Clayfield has taken issue with. This is because the first quote was in relation to someone



waiting under a category 2 for the therapy, meaning the drug and the second clearly states "*denied these hormones*".

The Member for Clayfield also refers to a media statement which he issued on this matter, dated 28 January 2025, where in his submission he claimed, "*it is reasonable to conclude the Member had read this statement*". The Member for Clayfield has provided no evidence to support his claim and for completeness I can advise I did not read this statement prior to my contribution.

However, now reading the statement that the Member for Clayfield has referred to, it refers to hormone therapy a number of times. I submit that I was talking to the issue of "therapy" being the act of providing "hormone therapy" medication to new patients. I was not talking about the "*clinical support*" which was referenced in the Member for Clayfield's statement.

On page 289 of the Record of Proceedings, I stated "*... the LNP's decision to halt access to gender dysphoria health treatment will put young people's lives at risk*". Gender dysphoria is defined in the directive issued by the Director-General of Queensland Health (referenced in the Member for Clayfield's media statement) as "*the distress experienced by a person due to incongruence between their gender identity different from their sex assigned at birth*".

Speaker, I bring this to your attention because it was clear from my full three-minute Adjournment Statement that I was talking about "*gender dysphoria health treatment*", which upon review of the Queensland Health Directive refers to Stage 1 Treatment and Stage 2 Treatment. These are defined as:

- Stage 1 Treatment:** The provision of medication that suppresses the endogenous oestrogen and testosterone responsible for induction of secondary sexual characteristics, otherwise known as puberty-blockers.
- Stage 2 Treatment:** The provision of gender affirming hormone treatment using oestrogen or testosterone, otherwise known as gender affirming hormone therapy.

As such, I submit that when I stated "*... halt on any new patients under 18 accessing health services related to gender therapy*" I was referring to the access of medication and treatment, as outlined in the directive and supported by the young Queenslanders experienced outlined in my contribution.

I refer to many previous Speaker's rulings where it has been ruled that "*the nature of political debate is that members engage in argument by discussing opposing viewpoints or different opinions, oftentimes using different expressions, statistics or methods of calculations*".

I submit that the matter raised by the Member for Clayfield falls in this category of political debate using different expressions. I also submit that it is clear from my entire contribution what I was referring to and that the Member for Clayfield has not provided evidence to support the required limbs.

I take my duty as an elected Member of Parliament seriously and advocating for marginalised and vulnerable members of our community is the cornerstone of what being a Member of Parliament is all about. I therefore reject the accusation by the Member for Clayfield in his correspondence.

I trust the aforementioned information is of assistance to you in your deliberations. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Yours sincerely

  
Hon Lorraine Enoch MP