

6 June 2025

Adjunct Professor Frank Tracey  
Health Service Chief Executive  
Queensland Children's Hospital  
[ED-QCH@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:ED-QCH@health.qld.gov.au)

Heather Watson  
QCH Board (Chair)  
[CHO\\_Board@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:CHO_Board@health.qld.gov.au)

CC:  
The Hon Tim Nicholls MP  
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services  
Email: [health@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:health@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

The Hon Jarrod Bleijie MP  
Deputy Premier of Queensland, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, Minister  
for Industrial Relations  
Email: [deputypremier@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:deputypremier@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

Dear Adjunct Professor Tracey and Ms Watson,

**Re: Suspension of Dr Jillian Spencer and Commitment to Patient Safety**

The Australian Medical Professional Society (AMPS) executive write to express serious concern regarding the reported suspension of our member Dr Jillian Spencer from her duties at Queensland Children's Hospital following her efforts to raise legitimate clinical concerns about the gender transitioning of minors.

Your institution, and Queensland Health more broadly, have consistently emphasised the importance of transparency, clinical integrity, and patient-centred care. The treatment of Dr Spencer risks undermining these principles and suggests a deeply concerning contradiction between public commitments and internal practice. Silencing medical professionals who engage in good faith clinical debate not only threatens patient safety, it also erodes public trust in the hospital's governance and commitment to ethical medical care.

The Patient Safety Net initiative, introduced by Queensland Health, is intended to ensure that staff can raise concerns about patient harm without fear of reprisal. Dr Spencer's conduct appears entirely consistent with the aims of this system. It is troubling, therefore, that she is being penalised for raising precisely the kind of clinical red flags this policy was designed to surface and address.

Furthermore, her concerns are not isolated or unfounded. The recent Cass Review in the United Kingdom has raised comparable issues around gender-affirming care for minors, concluding that caution, comprehensive assessment, and evidence-based practice must guide treatment<sup>1</sup>. The issues and concerns raised by the Cass Review have led to countries, including Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Brazil and the UK, curtailing invasive gender affirming care in minors. These concerns have also been highlighted by Justice Andrew Strum in a recent judgment re Devin in the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia<sup>2</sup> and have been detailed comprehensively by the US Health and Human Services in a recently published document entitled: Treatment for Paediatric Gender Dysphoria: Review of Evidence and Best Practices.<sup>3</sup>

That a senior clinician is being sanctioned for expressing similar concerns grounded in both international best practice and duty of care is alarming.

Patient safety must never become secondary to ideology or institutional image. Clinicians must be free to question and evaluate emerging practices particularly when those practices involve vulnerable populations and long-term health implications. Any appearance of suppressing legitimate professional concerns runs counter to the core values of a responsible, evidence-based healthcare system.

I urge you to review this matter urgently and in good faith. Queensland Children's Hospital has a duty not only to its patients, but to protect the integrity of clinical dialogue and the trust that underpins high-quality care. We look forward to a formal response and Dr Spencer's reinstatement within 14 days.

Yours sincerely,

*Dr Duncan Syme*

Dr Duncan Syme

President of the Australian Medical Professionals Society on behalf of the AMPS

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<sup>1</sup> Cass, H. (2024). Independent review of gender identity services for children and young people. NHS England. [https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20250310143633/https://cass.independent-review.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/CassReview\\_Final.pdf](https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20250310143633/https://cass.independent-review.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/CassReview_Final.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia. (2025). Re Devin (FedCFamC1F 211). [https://www.fcfcfa.gov.au/judgment?field\\_judgment\\_type\\_target\\_id=187&page=0](https://www.fcfcfa.gov.au/judgment?field_judgment_type_target_id=187&page=0)

<sup>3</sup> Treatment for Paediatric Gender Dysphoria: review of evidence and best practices. Department of Health and Human Services 1 May 2025. <https://opa.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2025-05/gender-dysphoria-report.pdf>