

Cairns and Hinterland HHS Clinical Review 2025 Paediatric Gender Health Services

Purpose

The purpose of this Clinical Review is to conduct a clinical review and provide expert clinical advice to the Health Service Investigator about paediatric gender health services provided to children and young people at the Cairns Sexual Health Service, Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service (CHHS) (Clinical Review).

Scope of Review

The Clinical Reviewers must review and provide expert clinical advice about the health services provided to all children and young people currently receiving care or treatment (this includes those under assessment) from the Cairns Sexual Health Service CHHS (Patient Cohort) including:

- (a) reviewing the patient records of the Patient Cohort;
- (b) developing a sequence of key events and significant clinical decision-making points relevant to the health services provided to the Patient Cohort;
- (c) reviewing the health services provided to the Patient Cohort, and the overall management of, (including admissions, assessment, examinations, investigations, diagnoses, treatments and discharge plans), against the Queensland Children's Gender Service (QCGS) endorsed Australian Standards of Care and Treatment Guidelines for Trans and Gender Diverse Children and Adolescents (currently version 1.3), and any other relevant best practice clinical care guidelines and/or service model, including:
 - i. whether there was timely and clinically appropriate assessment, treatment, follow-up, referral, and escalation of the Patient Cohort (including appropriate fertility counselling and advice),
 - ii. whether there was adequate multi-disciplinary input into the health services provided to the Patient Cohort,
 - iii. considering the level of compliance with existing policies and procedures (State-wide and local), including informed consent, and the standard and quality of care provided to the Patient Cohort,
 - iv. whether there was appropriate clinical documentation of the health services provided to, and overall management of, the Patient Cohort,

- (d) assess the appropriateness of the standard of care delivered by CHHS, including policies, procedures and/or guidelines in place for the relevant health services received by the Patient Cohort.
- (e) assess compliance by CHHS with the Australian Standards of Care and Treatment Guidelines for Trans and Gender Diverse Children and Adolescents (currently version 1.3), any other relevant best practice clinical guidelines and/or service models for the Patient Cohort.

The Clinical Reviewers must make findings in respect of the matters outlined above, in a report under section 136 of the HHBA, which may include recommendations, about the ways in which the safety and quality of the public sector health services can be maintained and improved.