

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Gender Intervention in Queensland must Stop**

FamilyVoice Queensland Director Andrew McColl, prominent psychologist Dr Jillian Spencer and SkyNews reporter Des Haughton are urging the Queensland Health Minister to stop radical gender intervention among children and teenagers.

“I’m shocked that the newly appointed Health Minister Tim Nicholls is following the previous government’s pathway of misery for children and teenagers, as his department continues to allow radical gender intervention for confused young people,” Andrew McColl said.

“The general public is sick and tired of trouble-making governments and we expect the new minister to make a clean break with the stupidity of the predecessor regime.”

Andrew McColl’s remarks follow on from concerns raised by prominent child psychiatrist Dr Jillian Spencer in her social media post of 11th November 2024, urging action by the Health Minister.

“I call on Mr Nicholls to decommission the Queensland Children’s Gender Service and return services for children with gender distress to mainstream children and adolescent services,” she said.

“The Queensland government is to urgently stop the prescription of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones to children in Queensland.”

Dr Spencer has urged the minister to recollect his speech to Parliament in June 2023, where he expressed “significant and genuine reservations” about children altering their gender identity. In the speech, he noted that “children under the age of 16 are often ill-equipped psychologically to make such a large and life changing alteration to their sexual identity.”

But the Minister is yet to demand the reinstatement of Dr Spencer, after she was stood down by the Queensland Children’s Hospital, because she raised questions about gender intervention for children.

Adding weight to the demands, Sky News journalist Des Haughton defended Dr Spencer in a Courier Mail opinion piece on 30th November, saying the psychologist should be



reinstated immediately, and the new Health Minister Tim Nicholls should offer her a public apology.

Houghton's remarks followed a UK decision in November 2024 to ban (on a temporary basis) the prescription of puberty blockers, following concerns raised about the harm done to young people. But in December 2024 the UK took the momentous decision to permanently scrap such interventions.

"Concerns raised by Des Houghton, and by Dr Spencer lend force to the UK example and that of Sweden, Finland and Denmark which have banned the use of puberty blocking drugs," Andrew McColl said.

"It's time for Australia to follow those examples, and I hope the people of Queensland will lead the way by demanding action by Health Minister Tim Nicholls."

Further details:

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