



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. 105

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2045

Ms Nichole Lawder MLA (Chair) Ms Suzane Orr MLA (Deputy Chair) Miss  
Laura Nuttall MLA (Member)

Appropriation Bill 2024-2025 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative  
Assembly) Bill 2024-2025

Question on Notice (Committee)

**Asked by:** Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA

**Addressed to:** Minister for Health

**Redirection:**

**Reference:** Health, Budget Outlook p53, Key Partnerships

**Date:** 25/07/2024

**In relation to:** Canberra Health Services and Sexual Health

**Question Lodgement Date:** 30/07/2024

**Date Answer Due:** 06/08/2024

**Question**

- 1) How many natal male children, under the following age brackets, are currently receiving 'transgender care' at the Canberra Sexual Health Centre (CSHC)?
  - a. 0-3 years old
  - b. 3-6 years old
  - c. 7-10 years old
  - d. 10-12 years old
  - e. 14-16 years old
  - f. 17-18 years old
  
- 2) How many natal female children, under the following age brackets, are currently receiving 'transgender care' at the CSHC?
  - a. 0-3 years old
  - b. 3-6 years old
  - c. 7-10 years old
  - d. 10-12 years old
  - e. 14-16 years old
  - f. 17-18 years old

- 3) How many natal male children, under the same age brackets above, are currently on the waitlist for 'transgender care' at the CSHC?
- 4) How many natal female children, under the same age brackets above, are currently on the waitlist for 'transgender care' at the CSHC?
- 5) How many natal male children are currently prescribed GnRH analogues or other puberty-suppressing medications for gender dysphoria? List according to the age brackets above.
- 6) How many natal female children are currently prescribed GnRH analogues or other puberty-suppressing medications for gender dysphoria? List according to the age brackets above.
- 7) How many natal male children are currently undergoing feminizing hormone therapy?
- 8) How many natal female children are currently undergoing masculinizing hormone therapy?
- 9) How many minors receiving puberty blockers at WCH have known psychiatric comorbidities?
- 10) How many minors receiving puberty blockers at WCH have known Autism Spectrum Disorder?
- 11) How much in public funding was spent on WCH gender services in 2023/2024?
- 12) How are parents involved in their child's decision-making when accessing 'transgender care'?
- 13) How are parents involved in their child's decision-making when accessing GnRH analogues or other puberty-suppressing medications for gender dysphoria?
- 14) How do patients (detransitioners) receive continuity of care when suspending treatment due to unwanted physical side effects?

**MINISTER STEPHEN-SMITH: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –**

Canberra Health Services (CHS) is unable to provide the data on specific age groups as it may lead to the identification of individuals. The questions below have been answered in a way that a person's identity is no longer apparent or cannot reasonably be ascertained. Additionally, within the health service, patients are considered a child up until 16 years of age. From 17 years old you are classified as an adult and therefore, the responses to these questions are based on children 16 years and younger.

CHS is currently working to establish the dedicated interdisciplinary Paediatric Gender Service (PGS) which is provided by the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children. This service will provide gender affirming care for children and young people with gender diversity or gender dysphoria in the ACT. The PGS Social Worker is engaging with families of young people on the current waiting list, providing information on the current status of the service, offering support and providing gender affirming psychosocial intervention to young people and their families as required. The medical component of the PGS has not yet started.

The Canberra Sexual Health Centre (CSHC) provides care for people aged over 16 years old.

- 1) There are 25 natal male children, between the ages of 0 and 16 that are currently receiving 'transgender care' at the CSHC.
- 2) There are 20 natal female children, between the ages of 0 and 16 that are currently receiving 'transgender care' at the CSHC.

- 3) 25 between the ages of 0-16. The numbers for both the waitlist and the people receiving are the same, this is because they reflect both the number of patients waiting to be seen by the PGS for medical review and those patients that have been reviewed by the PGS Social Worker.
- 4) 20 between the ages of 0-16. The numbers for both the waitlist and the people receiving are the same, this is because they reflect both the number of patients waiting to be seen by the PGS for medical review and those patients that have been reviewed by the PGS Social Worker.
- 5) As the medical component of the PGS has not yet started, no patient has been initiated on this treatment under this service. However, as at May 2024, 15 patients were being prescribed GnRH analogues or other puberty suppressing medications for gender dysphoria within CHS.
- 6) Please refer to response 5. CHS is unable to provide the data on specific age groups as it may lead to the identification of individuals.
- 7) Please refer to response 5. CHS is unable to provide the data on specific age groups as it may lead to the identification of individuals.
- 8) Please refer to response 5. CHS is unable to provide the data as it may lead to the identification of individuals.
- 9) Please refer to response 5. CHS is unable to provide the data as it may lead to the identification of individuals.
- 10) Please refer to response 5. CHS is unable to provide the data as it may lead to the identification of individuals.
- 11) The total spent on the PGS in 2023-24 is \$354,000.
- 12) A family assessment provides a comprehensive and impartial perspective. It is essential in contributing to informed and person-centred decisions. The family assessment supports practitioners to understand a young person's family context and relationships. This assessment is conducted by allied health professionals within the Psychosocial team. The young person and their immediate family members, including siblings, are invited to attend.

If the assessment is not completed within the scheduled appointment time, a follow up appointment is arranged as this is a crucial part of the young person's engagement with the Psychosocial team.

Assessing the child or young person's capacity to provide informed personal consent is done by the psychosocial team in conjunction with a paediatric or adolescent specialist. Decisions to proceed with hormone treatment are made only when there is consensus among the medical and psychosocial team. Current law requires treating clinicians to obtain consent from both parents (or those with parental responsibility) before lawfully administering hormone treatment, even when the young person is assessed as Gillick competent. Where necessary, the team can engage with the Clinical Ethics Committee to seek support in the consideration of ethical issues and the decision-making process, including issues of informed consent and competence.

- 13) Please refer to response 12.
- 14) Please refer to response 12.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature: 

Date: 9/8/24

By Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith Minister for Health