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ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS STATEMENT ON TREATMENT OF GENDER DYSPHORIA IN CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians has this afternoon released its position on the treatment of gender dysphoria in children and young people. The College has called on the Government to increase the availability of gender services for young people and said improving access to expert clinical care should be a national priority.

In its public statement, the College said: *"The RACP strongly supports expert clinical care that is non-judgmental, supportive and welcoming for children, adolescents and their families experiencing gender dysphoria. Withholding or limiting access to care and treatment would be unethical and would have serious impacts on the health and wellbeing of young people."*

The Royal Children's Hospital welcomes this position from the RACP.

We, like the RACP and its members, are committed to ensuring the best available care is available to children and young people with gender dysphoria regardless of where they live. We are heartened by the College's call for the Government to increase services and invest in research.

Most significantly, we applaud the College's stance in validating the work of Associate Professor Michelle Telfer and her colleagues nationally by calling on the Government to work with these experts to develop evidence-based fact sheets for patients and families.


You can read the College's statement [here](#), along with a copy of their advice to Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt.

The College report was initiated by Minister Hunt in August 2019 on the back of a number of inflammatory media reports. This reporting has continued unabated since that time.

We have maintained a position of respectful and dignified silence on this issue, even though it has been played out publicly and sensationally. We believe that to engage in the debate gives it a validation it does not deserve and further hurts our patients, their families and the broader trans and gender diverse community.

The campaign directed at us and, in particular Michelle, has been targeted, personal, inflammatory and unprecedented. We now see, with today's statement from the RACP, that it was unwarranted.

We restate our earlier public support of the RCH Gender Service and we maintain our commitment to delivering great care to our patients, to transparency, continuous quality improvement and our pursuit of clinical excellence.



John Stanway
Chief Executive Officer



The Hon Rob Knowles AO
Chairman

6 March 2020