



Lesbian Action Group Incorporated
129/585 Little Collins Street
Melbourne, 3000

24 September 2025

Dear Minister Nicholls and Minister Last,

We are writing to you as an advocacy group for Australian lesbians to urge you to take immediate action to reinstate Dr Jillian Spencer, a highly qualified child and adolescent psychiatrist, to her position as Senior Staff Specialist at the Queensland Children's Hospital. Dr Spencer's suspension in April 2023, following her legitimate concerns about the use of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones for gender-distressed children, represents a serious infringement on clinical freedom and patient safety.

We believe Dr Spencer has consistently demonstrated outstanding dedication to protecting vulnerable children from potentially irreversible harm. Her evidence-based approach—advocating for a cautious, holistic assessment of gender distress rather than automatic affirmation—aligns with emerging international consensus. The United Kingdom's Cass Review, for example, has led to the halting of these treatments for minors due to insufficient evidence of long-term benefits and significant risks. Queensland's own recent decision to freeze puberty blockers for children under 16 vindicates Dr Spencer's position and highlights the need for open, evidence-driven debate in medical practice.

We also stress the exceptional risks faced by young lesbians. Evidence from the UK, as well as personal testimonies from our many young lesbian members, shows that girls struggling with same-sex attraction are increasingly pressured—by peers, social media, and even clinical settings—to view themselves as “trans.” In many cases, what is actually discomfort with their emerging lesbian identity is being medicalised, leading to puberty blockers, hormones, and

even surgery. This amounts to a new form of homophobia, in which non-conforming girls are told they must change their bodies rather than be supported to accept their sexuality. Dr Spencer's cautious approach offers vital protection for these young people, who are at risk of losing their fertility, sexual function, and lifelong health.

We are deeply concerned that the ongoing suspension and recent termination notice to Dr Spencer not only undermine her professional reputation but also send a chilling message to other healthcare professionals who dare to question ideological pressures in medicine. This politicisation erodes public trust in Queensland Health, silences ethical dissent, and ultimately harms the children who rely on its services. Groups such as the Nurses Professional Association of Queensland (NPAQ), Family First, and the Human Rights Law Alliance have echoed these concerns, calling for her reinstatement with a formal apology and an independent investigation into the circumstances of her suspension.

We want to see more brave doctors like Dr Spencer be able to speak out about the harms of "gender affirming care" and for the era of "no debate" to come to an end to protect young Australians coming to terms with their sexuality.

We urge you, as Minister for Health, to exercise your authority to reverse this decision. Reinstating Dr Spencer and committing to reforms that safeguard clinical independence would demonstrate that Queensland's healthcare system prioritises evidence over ideology and would represent a vital step in restoring confidence in public health services.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter that is affecting young lesbians at an alarming rate.

Yours sincerely,

Lesbian Action Group Incorporated.