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## MEDIA RELEASE

15 January 2026

The LGBTI Legal Service has prompted the Queensland Health Minister to amend the ban on gender-affirming care, quietly changing the Ministerial Direction just five days before a scheduled court hearing.

Following a legal challenge brought by the LGBTI Legal Service in late 2025, the Minister amended the Direction in a way that directly addresses the core legal issue raised in the case. The Ministerial Direction issued on 28 October 2025, which was published just 6 hours after the previous ban was found unlawful, defined 'new patient' as a person under 18 who had not received stage 1 or stage 2 care. Our client was not a 'new patient' as they had received care through the private system after the January ban.

Our case argued that our client, and other young people who were forced into private care during the ban, were entitled to care through the public system because they were not 'new patients'.

Rather than have this issue tested by the Supreme Court, the Minister discreetly amended the Direction on 15 January 2026 to define a 'new patient' as someone who had not received care before 28 January 2025. While the amendments mean that transgender young people are still unable to access care through the public system, a substantive Judicial Review and separate discrimination and human rights complaint remains on foot.

**ENDS**

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