



17 September 2025

The Hon. Tim Nicholls
Minister for Health - Queensland
health@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Re: Public Interest Issues – Dr Jillian Spencer

Dear Minister Nicholls,

I am writing as co-convenor of Australian Feminists for Women's Rights, a feminist organisation committed to safeguarding the rights of women and children and ensuring health care is guided by evidence, not ideology.

First, we want to commend you and your government for your recent decision to pause the use of hormone treatment for gender-confused youth. This was a brave and responsible move, reflecting the findings of the UK Cass Review (2024) and consistent with growing international caution. It demonstrates that you are prepared to put the wellbeing of children and evidence-based medicine above political expediency.

In this light, we consider that the ongoing pursuit of Dr Jillian Spencer and the recent show cause notice she has received from Queensland Health amounts to political persecution for her ethical adherence to her clinical obligations. The matters Dr Spencer has raised align directly with the rationale behind your government's abovementioned decision. She has done exactly what any responsible clinician must do: raise questions about the safety, efficacy, and ethical basis of irreversible and unevidenced medical interventions being implemented by the State on vulnerable minors.

To punish Dr Spencer now is to continue the pattern of the previous government — a government that reacted to criticism of gender medicine with ideological overreach, silencing whistleblowers rather than engaging with evidence. That stance is now discredited. Justice Andrew Strum's recent Family Court ruling (Re: Devin, 2025) has further exposed the weaknesses of the "affirm at all costs" approach, criticising misleading expert testimony and highlighting the lack of thorough diagnosis, evidence-based treatment and patient safeguarding in gender clinics. There is no doubt that Australian medical providers such as Queensland Health are facing imminent litigation in coming years, for harms caused to minors via the continued affirmation model approach Dr Spencer is warning about.

The conduct of Queensland Health is in flagrant breach of the fundamental objectives it is required to adhere to as a State employer bound by the Model Litigant Principles. It has not taken a public good / public interest approach in this matter, nor afforded Dr Spencer due process. It continues to use its powers to undermine Dr Spencer's rights as an employee and to misuse taxpayer funds in its pursuit of her termination. Taxpayers must be protected from any further unjustified expenses in relation to this matter.

Minister, we urge you to:

- Intervene to prevent the termination of Dr Spencer without delay and to ensure Queensland Health's adherence to its obligations as a model litigant.
- Affirm Dr Spencer's right to speak as a whistleblower.
- Ensure Queensland Health protects open professional debate rather than punishing it.
- Continue aligning Queensland's gender medicine practices with international best evidence, protecting young people from premature and unsafe medicalisation.

You have already taken the first step by pausing hormone treatments for minors. Protecting Dr Spencer would be the natural next step — showing that your government stands with evidence, transparency, and the rights of children and women, not with the failed political reflexes of the past.

Yours sincerely



Emeritus Professor Bronwyn Winter
Co-Convenor, Australian Feminists for Women's Rights