



Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance
Services
Minister for Women

1 William Street Brisbane Qld 4000
GPO Box 48 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3035 6100

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliament
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Neil

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 3848-23, tabled in Parliament on 14 June 2023, in relation to access to contraception services in public hospitals, in particular, the Mater Mothers' Hospital.

Access to contraception services is a significant health issue. Women have a right to exercise self-determination, sexual and reproductive autonomy, and sexual equality. Queensland Health acknowledges that conscientious objection to some services occurs across Queensland and Australia and does not just occur at the Mater. For those women who wish to access services not offered by the Mater, I understand they are referred to an appropriate facility or back to their general practitioner.

The Queensland Government has a strong commitment to improving the health of women and girls. That is why this Government is progressing the first ever *Queensland Women and Girls' Health Strategy* in the coming months to support better health service outcomes and experiences across the system. The Strategy will augment and support improved service provision to women and girls and build on the work of our existing network of free sexual health clinics and community health services where women and girls can access advice about a range of health concerns, including pregnancy and contraception options.

Furthermore, Queensland Health will shortly commence additional consultation on the *Queensland Women and Girls' Health Strategy*. I encourage the petitioners to participate in this consultation, so that their feedback can be recorded and incorporated into the final strategy.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shannon Fentiman', written in a cursive style.

Shannon Fentiman MP

Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services

Minister for Women

Member for Waterford