



The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health and Aged Care

Ref No: MC21-039097

Mr Ken O'Dowd MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Petitions
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Dear Chair 

I refer to your correspondence of 23 November 2021 concerning petition EN3307 requesting that gender affirming and gender reassignment services be eligible for Medicare benefits.

I appreciate the many challenges faced by transgender people and those who have gender dysphoria. The Australian Government is committed to ensuring that all Australians are able to access timely and affordable, high quality health care by providing Medicare rebates for services listed on the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) and free hospital services for public patients in public hospitals.

While there is no specific MBS item for gender affirmation surgery, MBS rebates are available for patients to cover a range of surgical procedures and specialist consultations that may be performed as part of the gender affirmation process, if the services are deemed by the treating practitioner to be clinically relevant.

Before a new medical procedure or treatment can be publicly funded on the MBS, an application would need to be assessed by the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC). MSAC is an independent, expert advisory group which provides advice to the Government on whether a new medical service or technology should be publicly funded, based on an assessment of the comparative safety, clinical effectiveness and cost effectiveness, using the best available evidence. To date, no application has been submitted to MSAC to list specific gender affirmation surgery items on the MBS. More information about the MSAC process is available on the MSAC website at: www.msac.gov.au.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely

 Greg Hunt