



# Anger at proposal for taxpayer-funded transgender surgery

Some Australian health advocates are furious that the Society of Plastic Surgeons have applied to make all transgender surgeries paid by the taxpayer through Medicare.

This means double mastectomies (breast removal), penectomies (penis removal) and even the construction of a fake penis (neo-phallus by microvascular transfer), will be paid for by Australian taxpayers.

**The Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons** claim that 47,087 individuals would use this service in the first year, needing over \$30 million in public funding. The cost for several surgeries can be upwards of \$50,000 per individual.

At present the proposal is for over 18-year-olds identifying as transgender. The Society also claim that *"The medical interventions accessed will depend on a person's personal choice as to which medical affirmation intervention(s) are right for them."*

Health advocates have questioned this patient-led surgery choice. They've asked why doctors aren't actively recommending less traumatic psychological counselling rather than rush to publicly funded surgery simply at a patient's request.

Phil Dye, the Founder of the **Australian Declaration of Biological Truth**, believes the public would be furious should the application be approved.

*"This is not a life-saving surgery. It is elective and cosmetic. The transgender wish, although pressing to the individual, is often the result of childhood trauma or some other psychological condition."*

*"The Australian public would be appalled if this succeeds when patients needing Medicare funding for urgent surgery are made to wait. Public money should be spent where treatment is needed, not where treatment affirms an individual's feelings."* Dye said.

*"Even the Society of Plastic Surgery admit there are no prerequisite diagnostic tests required to establish the presence of gender incongruence. It's a feeling."* Dye added.

The Society consulted only two special interest groups whose focus is entirely on transgender advocacy. These were ACON and AusPath. The National Health and Research Council (NHMRC) recently discredited AusPath by refusing to endorse their 'unrobust' studies & poor evidence base.

No groups or individuals concerned about the rapid rise of gender dysphoria in children, or the general community were consulted.

The Society also researched five medical associations whose members stand to make millions if the application succeeds. These include the Royal Australian College of

Surgeons (RACS) and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

The Australian public can give their opinion to the Government Medical Services and Advisory Committee through their survey linked from the Australian Declaration of Biological Truth at <https://declarationofbiologicaltruth.au/plastic-surgeons-medicare-application/> This must be done before February 14.

## **ENDS**

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