

Sydney Children's Hospitals Network response:

Sydney Children's Hospitals Network (SCHN) provides a Trans and Gender Diverse service for children and young people.

The service has been operational since 2013 and continues to provide holistic, culturally safe and affirming care to current patients. Under the service, referred children and young people who have undergone a specialised and comprehensive assessment are considered for puberty blockers (stage 1 treatment).

This assessment involves consultation with social workers, mental health professionals and medical specialists. SCHN has never offered gender affirming hormone treatment (stage 2).

NSW Health is developing a coordinated, state-wide specialist Trans and Gender Diverse Health Service for people aged under 25. SCHN will form part of the Sydney hub which will enhance existing services and support a seamless healthcare journey for children and young people. This model of care has been informed by current national and international guidelines that have been peer reviewed and adopted by healthcare providers across Australia and the globe.

SCHN expresses our sincere condolences to Noah (O'Brien's) family. Due to patient privacy and confidentiality, SCHN is unable to provide further information about his specific care. The priority for any patient who presents to one of our facilities in acute mental health distress is linking the young person with the appropriate mental health services immediately. This could be through in-patient care or outpatient support through their local Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

As a healthcare and research institution, SCHN undertakes many health-related research projects. These projects are all ethically approved by the SCHN Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) and comply with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research 2007 (updated 2018).

The research project related to the papers published on trans and gender diverse children, adolescent and their families has been reviewed and meets the requirements of the National Statement. Under this Statement, SCHN is required to communicate research results, whether favourable or unfavourable, in ways that permit scrutiny and contribute to public knowledge and understanding.

The HREC has followed up directly with people who have submitted feedback regarding the research and the secondary paper was guided by consumer input. The Adolescent Medicine department was not involved in the research project and the Trans and Gender Diverse service continues to be provided in line with current endorsed treatment guidelines and evidence-based practice.

SCHN has an annual budget of \$1.5 million to support the Trans and Gender Diverse Service, with over six full-time equivalent positions including medical, nursing and allied health staff.