

To the Hon. Minister for Housing and Assistant Treasurer,

I write to you as a mother and LGBTIQ+ advocate. It is telling that there is no LGBTIQ+ category when selecting what topics relates to this submission, and reflects the complete oversight of the Federal Government concerning key issues close to my heart and work.

I live and work in rural and regional NSW and Victoria in a border community and I am disgraced at the complete disregard and lack of resourcing to support transgender, gender diverse and non binary (TGDNB) children.

The Royal Australian College of Physicians has presented their findings about the state of health care for transgender children and young people in a report to Government early last year. In that advice the RACP makes it clear that there is an urgent need for the establishment of comprehensive evidence-based care for this group of young people. At present there is a critical shortfall in access to qualified services and support for affirmative care that the families of these children are seeking.

The Federal Government must include adequate resourcing in the ways described in the RACP's report – our trans children's very lives depend on it. You only need to do a quick search to discover just how desperate the families of these children are. The stigma and discrimination these children continue to face in healthcare and education are heartbreaking. As a parent and an advocate I ask the Government to cease ignoring the circumstances of our TGDNB children but join with their families, friends, teachers, fellow community members in celebrating them as the compassionate and intelligent individuals they are.

The time is well overdue for the Federal Government to step up and do what it is in the best interest of these young Australians.

Kind regards,

Olivia Noto

██████████