



27 August 2025

Ms Anna Brown

Chairperson

Variations in Sex Characteristics (Restricted Medical Treatment) Assessment Board

Via email to: VSCBoard@act.gov.au

Dear Ms Brown,

Thank you for providing the Public Advocate with notice of the public consultation period for the General Treatment Plan submitted to the Variation in Sex Characteristics (Restricted Medical Treatment) Assessment Board regarding Turner Syndrome.

Having reviewed the documentation, the Public Advocate is pleased to note that all patients would be offered a referral to the VSC Psychological Service to provide support related to their diagnosis. Further considerations for variations in gender identity for patients are highlighted in the application, including confirming gender identity prior to commencement of treatment and at each review. It is pleasing to note that the General Treatment Plan, should it be approved, provides for treatment that is sufficiently flexible to adapt to the needs of patients, rather than being overly prescriptive and potentially limiting therapeutic discretion.

It is the Public Advocate's position that this application appears to proactively consider the needs of the cohort of patients who have Turner Syndrome, including the potential for variations in gender identity, psychological supports, and notes regarding treatment options and consent. Such considerations are made both when a patient is considered not to have decision-making capacity and as they age and mature in their capacity.

The Public Advocate recognises the effort taken by the applicant in liaising with the Variations in Sex Characteristics (Restricted Medical Treatment) Assessment Board to develop a robust application for public consultation. The Public Advocate does not have any changes to recommend and wishes the Assessment Committee well in its deliberations.

Warm regards,

Jodie Griffiths-Cook

Public Advocate

ACT Human Rights Commission