

ROGD, faulty science and social contagion: Origins of a psychic epidemic

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THE CONCEPT
OF
'TRANSGENDER'
AND
TRANSGENDER
IDEOLOGY

There are four competing, but not mutually exclusive conceptual models regarding gender dysphoria:

- **A physical illness that must be treated medically and surgically**
- **A sexual minority with rights of recognition**
- **A developmental psychopathology**
- **A psychic epidemic caused by social contagion**

Social contagion:
a social construction that
predates the internet

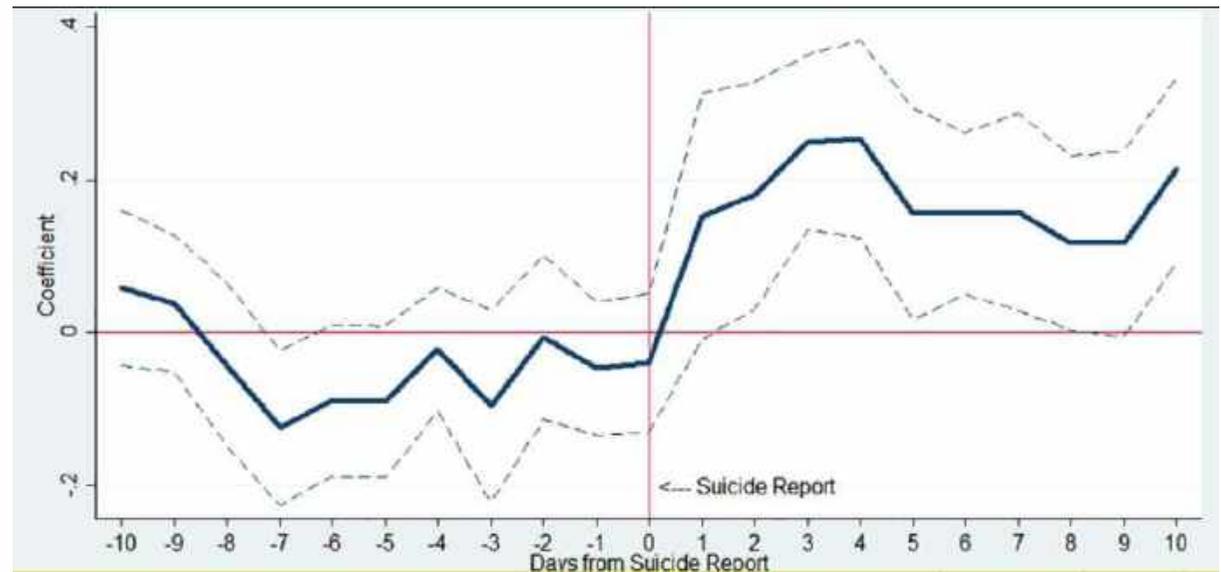
Social contagion predated the advent of the cyberspace, thereby placing its origins in the minds of humankind, relegating social media to its role as an efficient conduit of social contagion.

In 1774, Johann von Goethe, *The sorrows of young Werther*, which launched a suicide cluster of young people disappointed in love.

In 1984, the suicide of a young Austrian businessman, who threw himself in front of a train, initiated a spate of similar suicides.

When Goethe's book was removed from the public, and media exposure of the train suicide was stopped, the suicide rate dropped by 80 percent almost immediately in both cases.

Social contagion of suicide

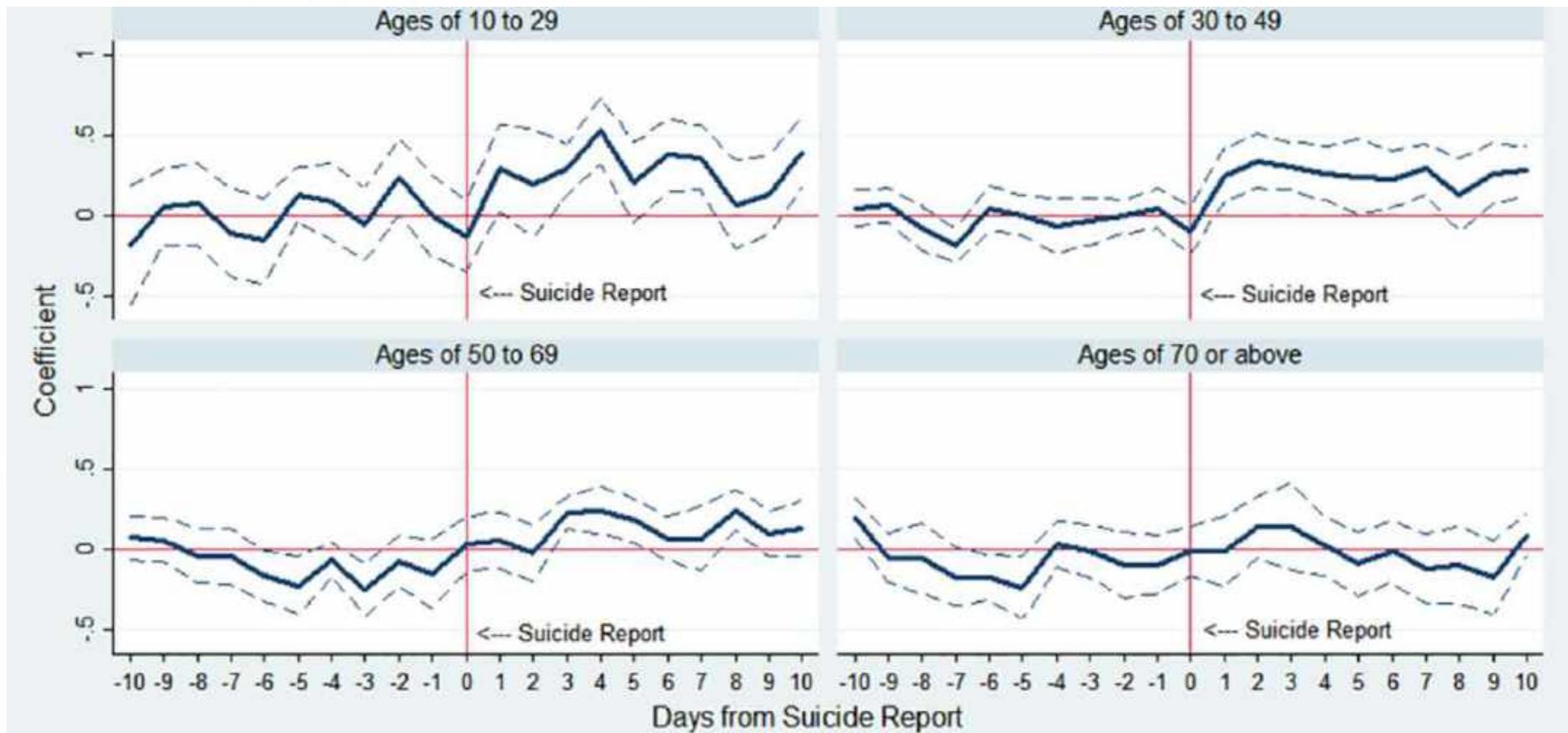


Estimated changes in total suicides before and after media reports on celebrity suicide

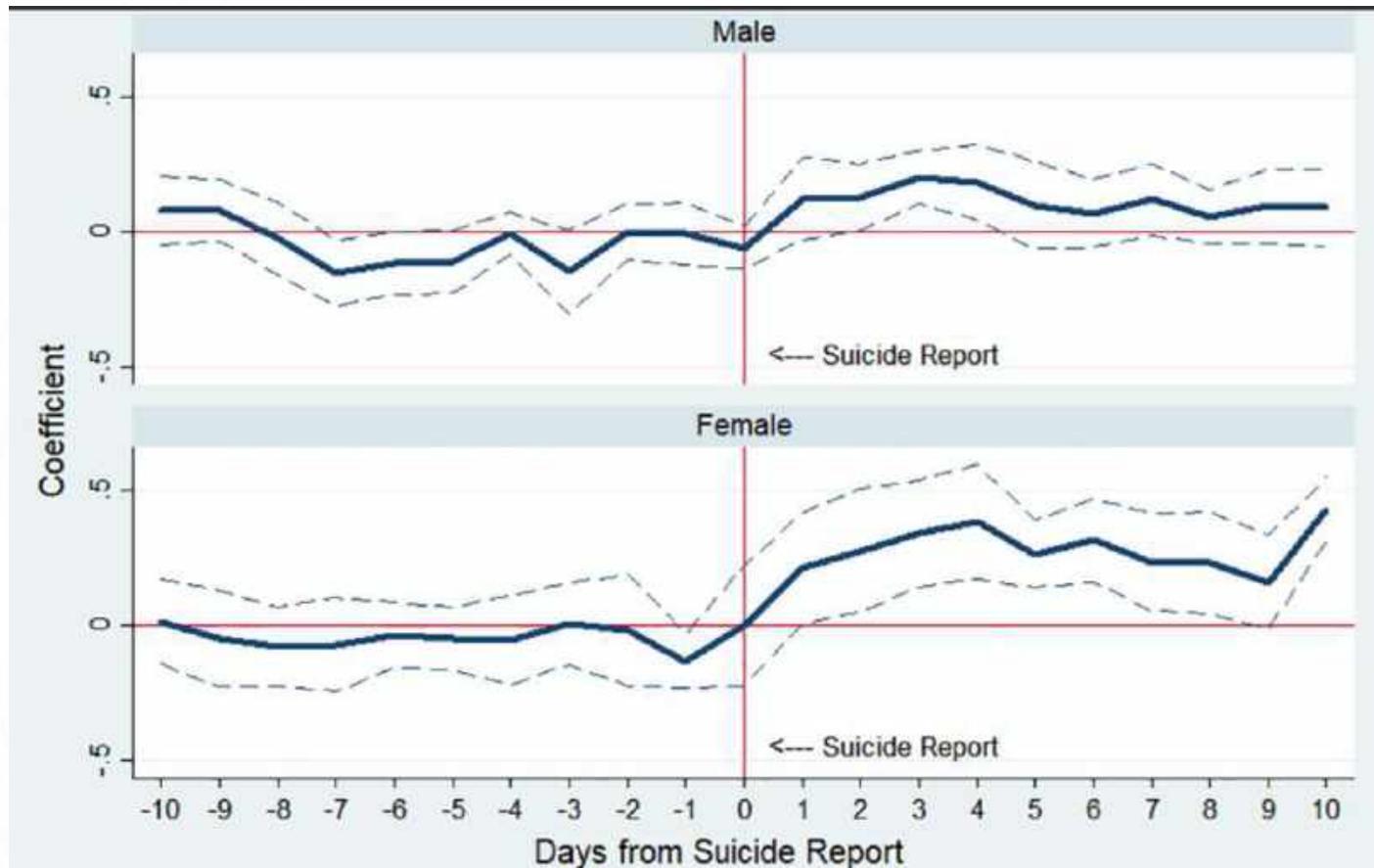
Jeongmin Ha and Hee-Seung Yang (2021)

[The Werther effect of celebrity suicides: Evidence from South Korea \(plos.org\)](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0241111)

The y-axis indicates an approximate percent change in public suicide by corresponding day



The sharp increase in suicides following celebrity suicide is mostly accounted for by suicides in the 10-29 year age group



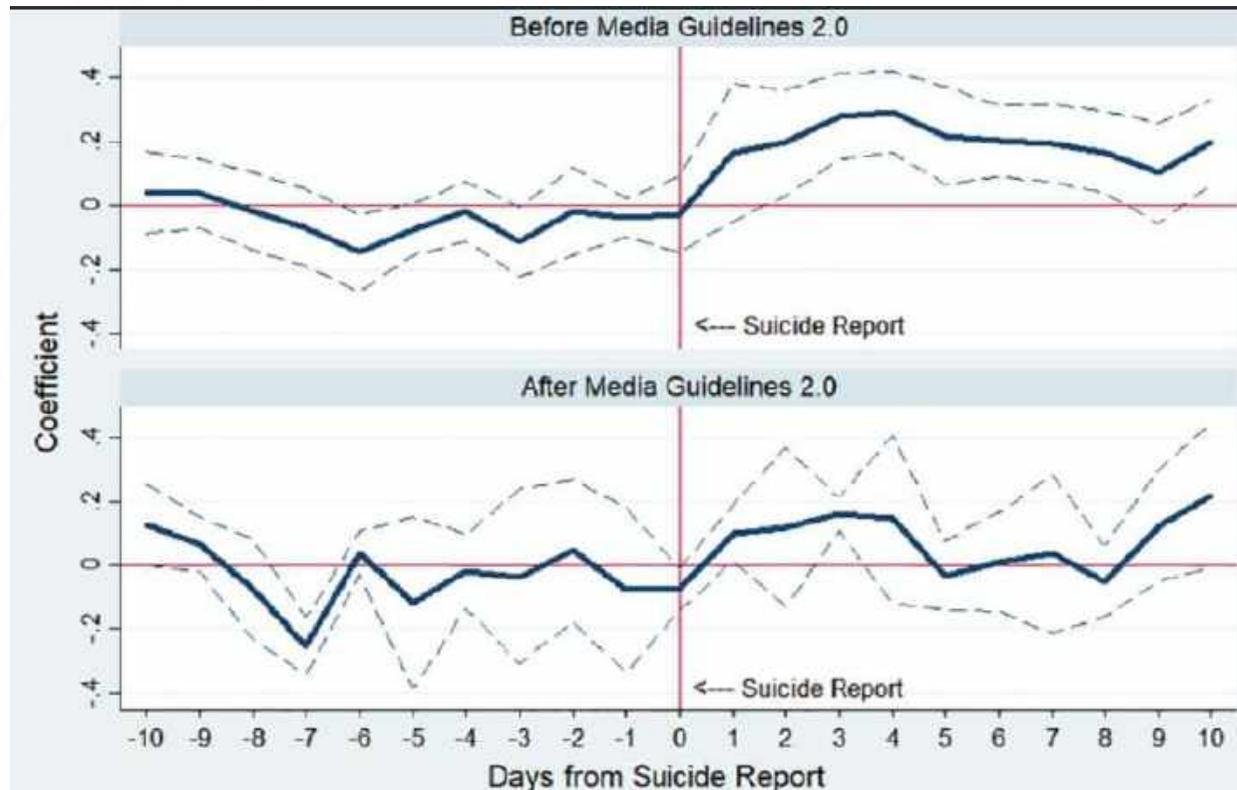
This is exactly the same pattern of social contagion that we are witnessing in gender dysphoria – young females aged 10-29.

Is this a coincidence?

Females are more susceptible to the effects of social contagion than males.

Jeongmin Ha and Hee-Seung Yang (2021)

[The Werther effect of celebrity suicides: Evidence from South Korea \(plos.org\)](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0241111)



Is it time to implement more responsible media guidelines and more cautious policies and practices in education, law, and medicine with respect to gender dysphoria?

Change in reporting and social media exposure following celebrity suicides resulted in a significant decrease in copycat suicides

Jeongmin Ha and Hee-Seung Yang (2021)

[The Werther effect of celebrity suicides: Evidence from South Korea \(plos.org\)](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0241111)

Social contagion
begins with the
distortion of
reality

Followed by a cult-like
adherence to the faulty precepts
that tolerates no rational
challenges to their veracity

ROMANTICIZING SUICIDE

- **13 REASONS WHY**
- “We do not recommend that vulnerable youth, especially those who have any degree of suicidal ideation, watch this series. Its powerful storytelling may lead impressionable viewers to romanticize the choices made by the characters and/or develop revenge fantasies.”

National Association of School Psychologists

THIN REPRESENTS THE BODY IDEAL

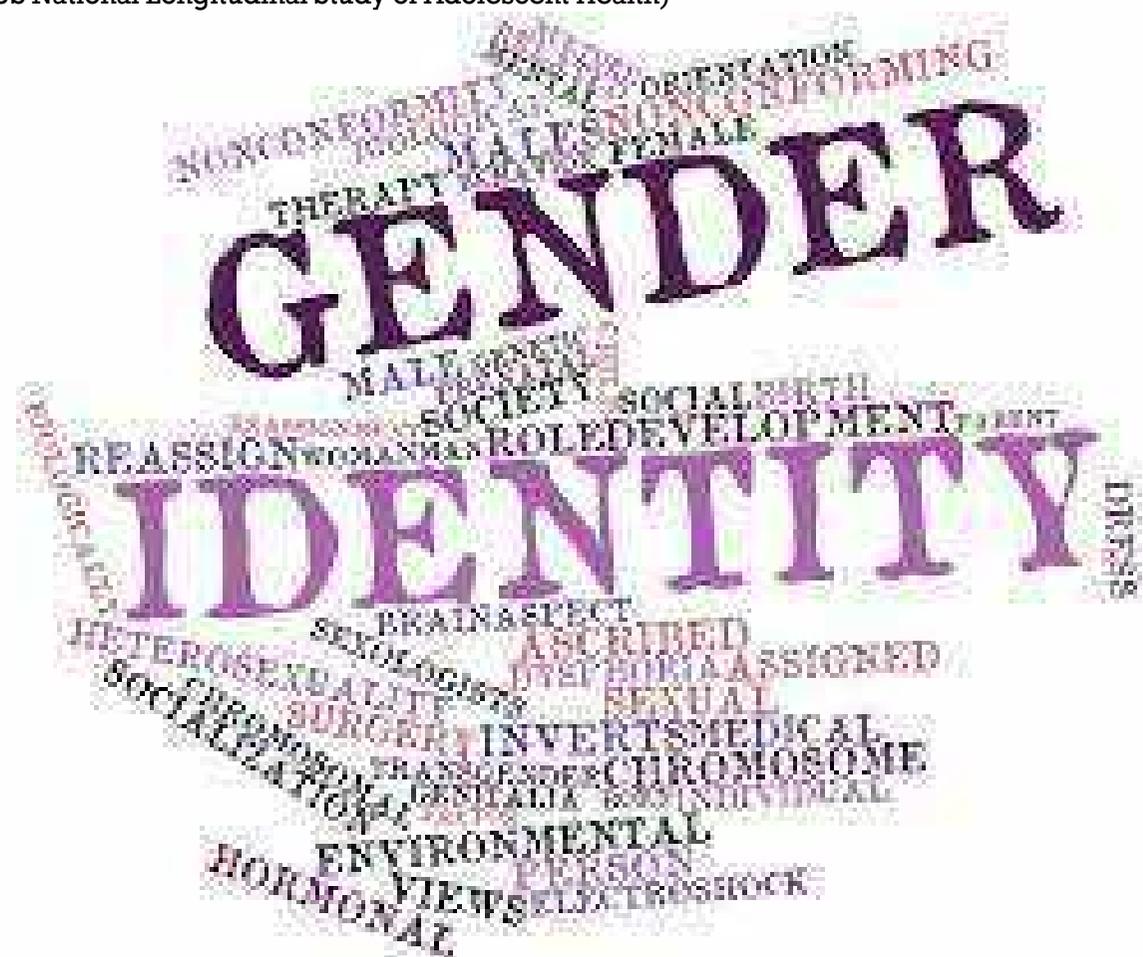
- Anorexia is not just about striving for an idealized body image. It is an obsessive, relentless—and futile—quest to be pure, perfect, and clean.



Savin-Williams, R. C., & Ream, G. L. (2007). Prevalence and stability of sexual orientation components during adolescence and young adulthood. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 36(3), 385-394. (a report of the US National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health)

conceptual distortions
in transgender ideology

**Gender identity is
fixed and immutable
during childhood**



Kenny, D.T. (2020). Gender development and the transgendering of children. In H. Brunsell-Evans and M. Moore. *The fabrication of the transgender child*. Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Press.

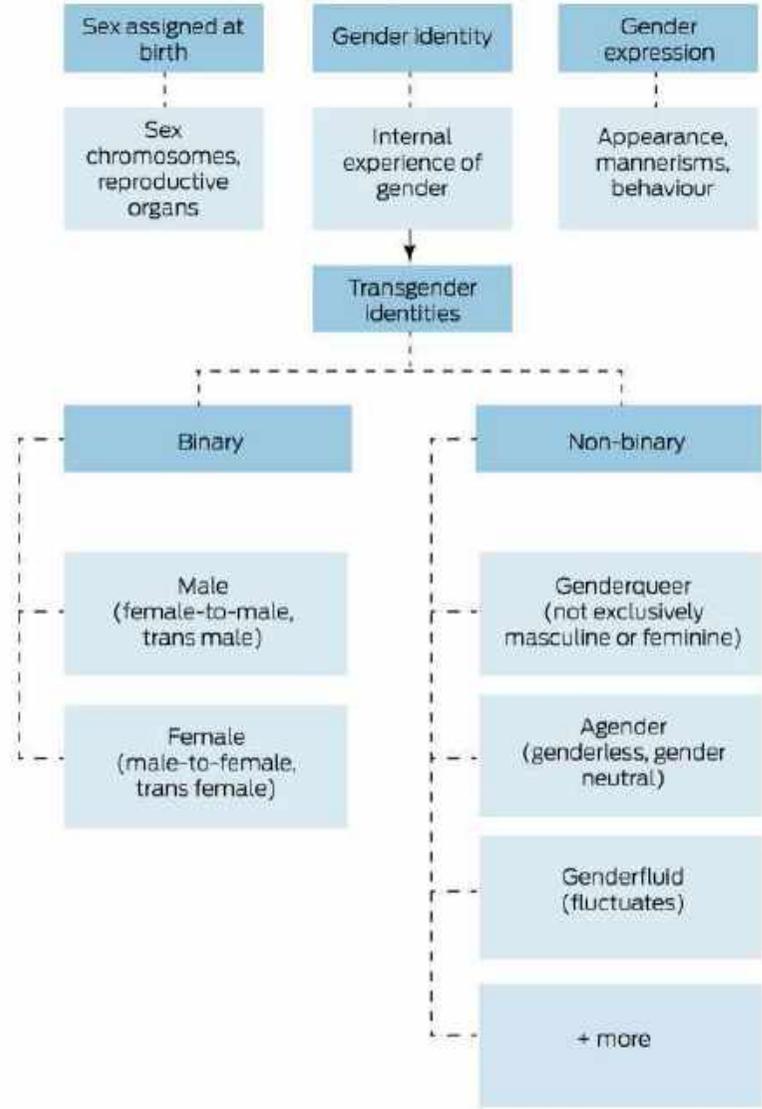
Conceptual distortions
in transgender ideology

Sex is “assigned” at birth

Gender is a personal choice

**You can change your natal sex
through hormones and surgery**

Box 2 – Distinction between gender identity, gender expression and sex assigned at birth



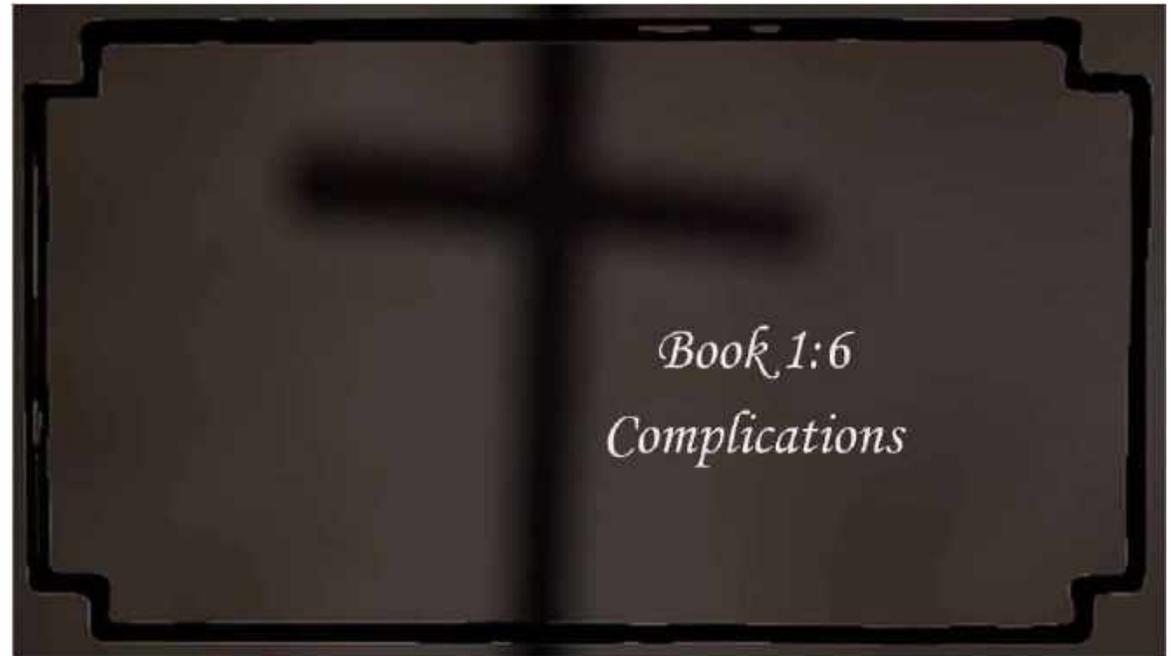
Conceptual distortions in transgender ideology affirmation treatment

- **Regret and detransition mean that gender identity is not fixed and immutable during childhood, therefore have to be denied**
- BUT
 - Gender reassignment surgeons report increases in requests for reversal surgeries.
 - BBC documentary *One life: Make me a man again*, 2004.
 - Websites e.g.,
 - Sex Change Regret run by Walt Heyer - 25,000 visits a month
 - *The Detransition Advocacy Network*, <https://detransinfo.tumblr.com/tags> “Hormones and surgery may alter appearances, but nothing changes the immutable fact of your sex.”
 - Longer term regret in adulthood has not been systematically studied

There is no regret or
detransition – really?

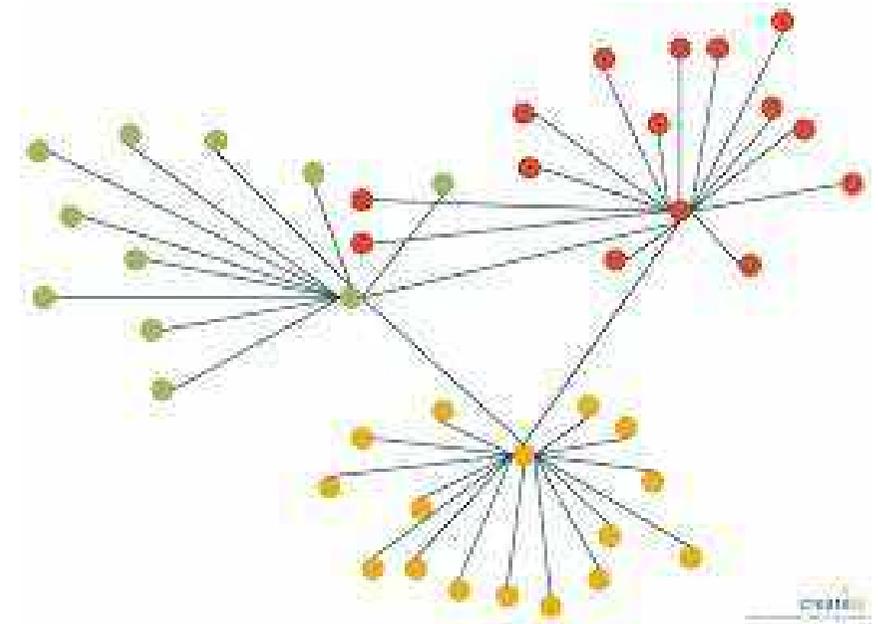
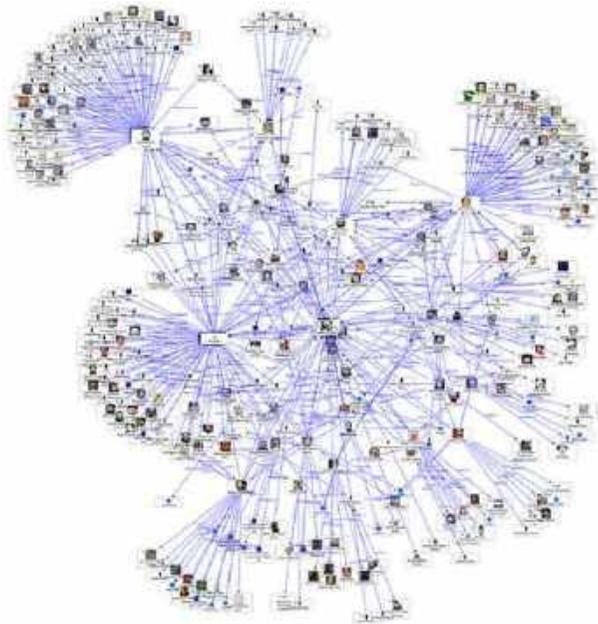
There are now tens of thousands of
young people suffering from their
decision to transition.

The concept of social contagion is anathema
to each of these distortions in transgender
ideology



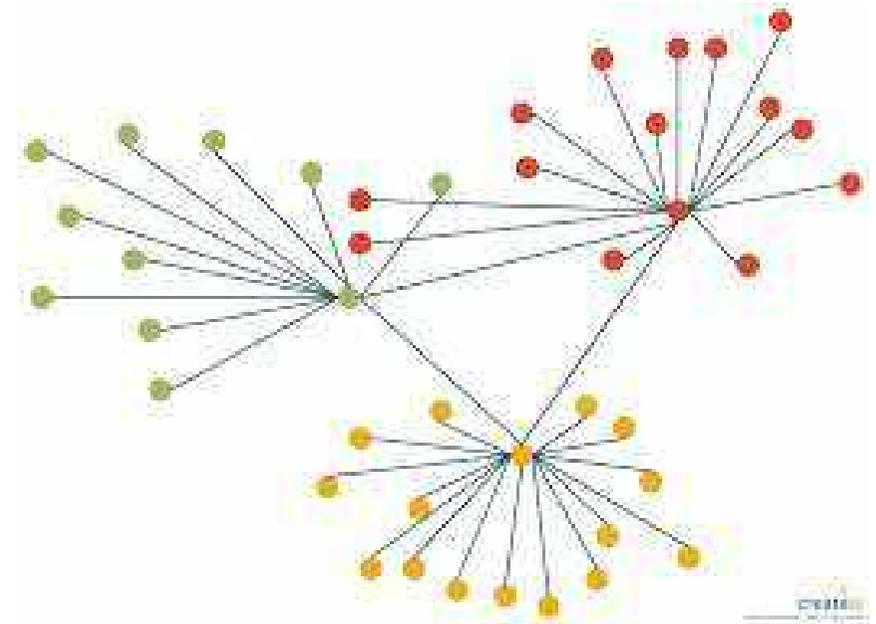
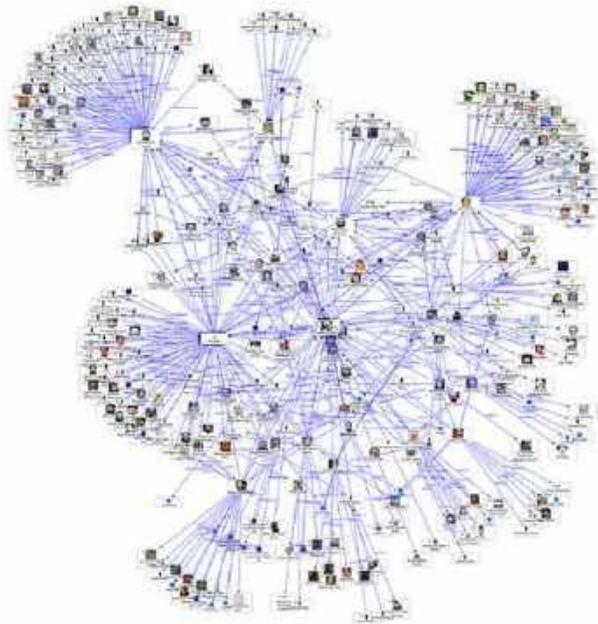
Where's the
evidence?

- **'...evidence regarding psychosocial and cognitive impacts are generally lacking'**
- **'a momentous step in the dark'**
- **'an unregulated live experiment on children'**
 - *"Giving children the right to independently make life-changing decisions at an age when they cannot be expected to understand the consequences of those decisions, lacks scientific evidence and is contrary to established medical practice."*
- **Project Nettie**
 - it is "**wholly ideological, scientifically inaccurate and socially irresponsible (to) recast biological sex as a social construct, which then becomes a matter of chosen individual identity.**"



Another conceptual distortion
in transgender ideology

**Denial of social contagion
and rapid onset gender
dysphoria (ROGD)**

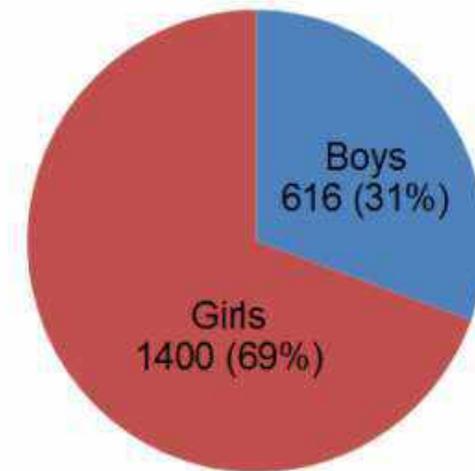
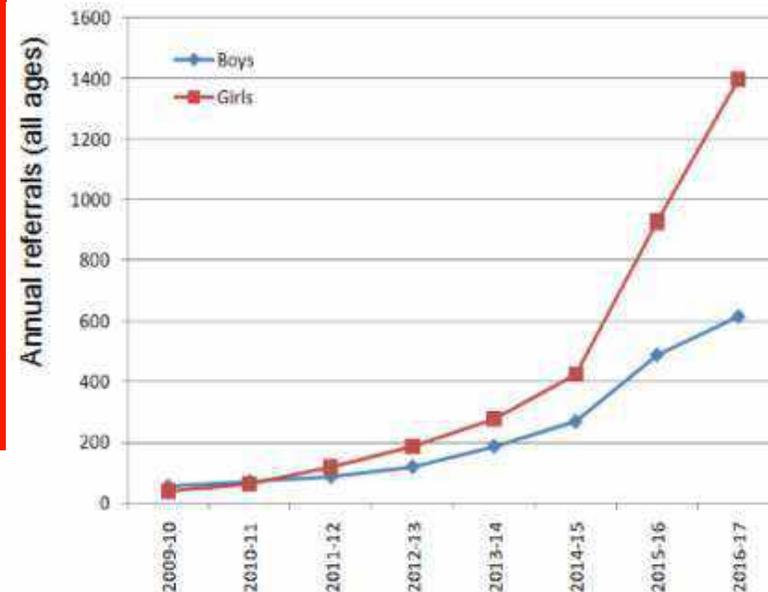


- “[p]revalence estimates of GD [before ROGD] indicated male-to-female cases outnumbered female-to-male cases, with 1 per 10,000 males and 1 per 27,000 females.
- These rates qualify for orphan designation status (defined by the European Union) as less than 5 in 10,000 of the general population.”

<https://blogs.bmj.com/bmjebmspotlight/2019/02/25/gender-affirming-hormone-in-children-and-adolescents-evidence-review/>

conceptual distortions in transgender ideology

Denial of Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria (ROGD) which provides evidence of social contagion



Annual referrals for 2016/17 (all ages)

UK GID Clinic numbers rose from 200 to 2,000 (a ten-fold increase) in five years – NB reversal of male/female ratios.

Population estimates

DSM 5 PREVALENCE ESTIMATES

- Natal adult males - 0.005% to 0.014%
- Natal adult females - 0.002% to 0.003%

ADOLESCENT TRANSGENDER ESTIMATES

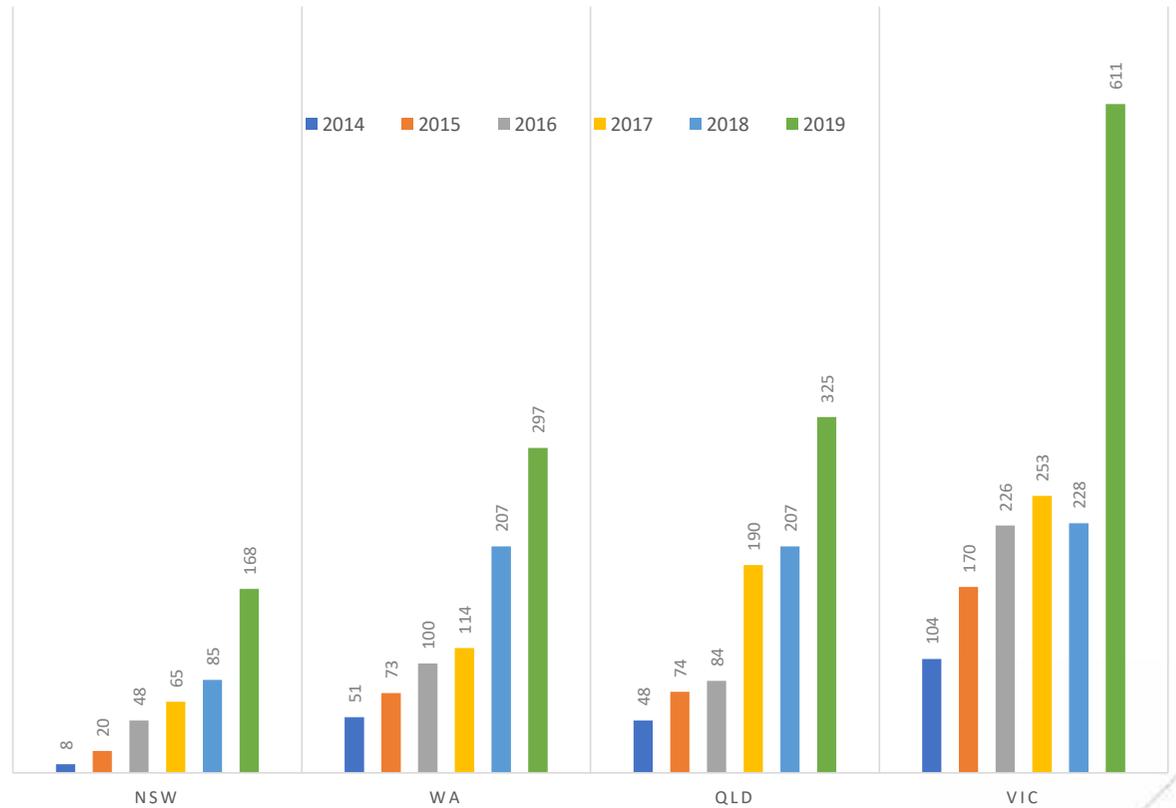
- **0.7 percent of 13- to 17-year olds living in USA identify as transgender according (Blad , 2017)**

Williams Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law

- **This estimate is between 140 (males) and 350 (females) times higher than that for adult males and females.**

Australian data – large increases in each state 2014-2019

NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN GD CLINICS BY STATE IN AUSTRALIA 2014-2019



Percentage of children seeking treatment for gender dysphoria and proportion of children from the general population aged 5-19 years in WA, Qld, Vic and 10-19 in NSW

	NSW	WA	Qld	Vic
Percent seeking treatment at GD clinics	11.8	22.6	25.0	40.6
Percent of population of children aged 5-19 years in WA and Qld, and aged 10-19 in NSW (N=3,334,946) ¹⁷	26.7	13.9	27.4	32.0
Number in population taken from 2016 Australian Census ¹⁸	891,434 ¹⁹	464,956	912,522	1,066,034

Evidence of social contagion

Source: Kenny, D.T. (2020). *Gender dysphoria in children and young people: collected papers on the psychology, sociology and ethics of gender transition*. Germany: Scholars Press

WA accounts for 14% of children aged 5-19 in the Australian population but accounts for 23% of young people enrolled in GD Clinics

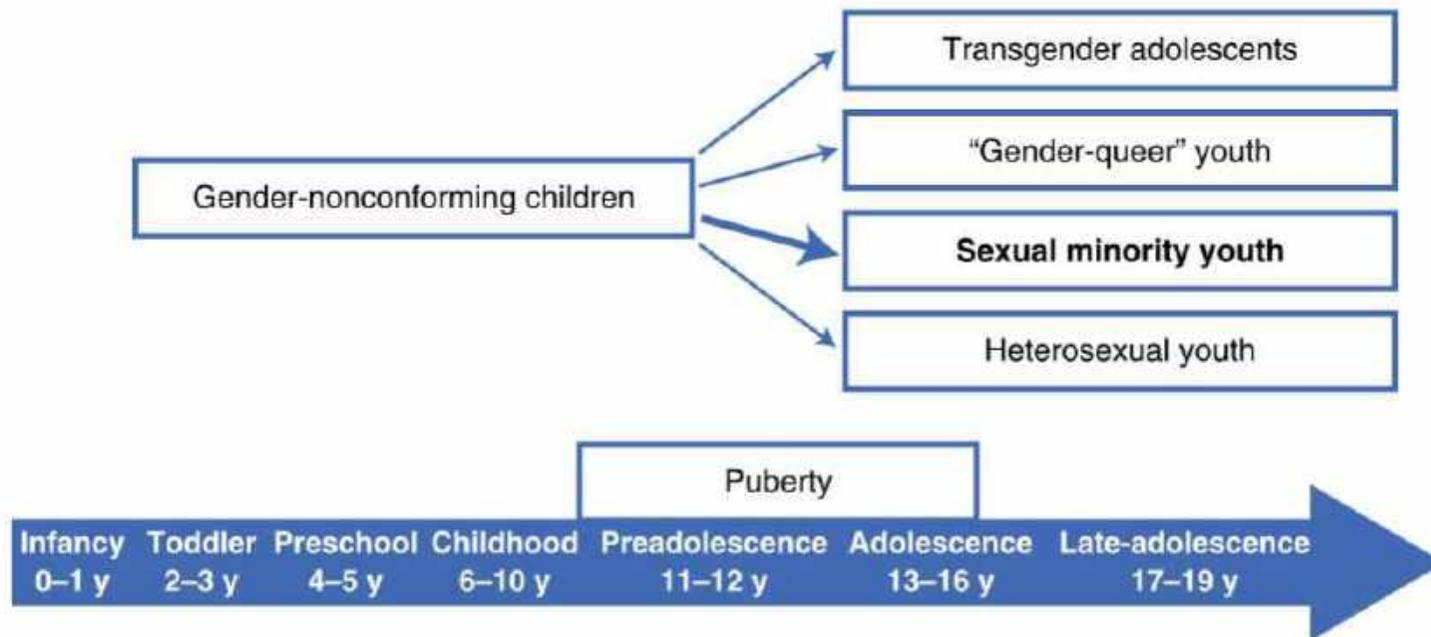
Victoria accounts for 32% of children aged 5-19 in the Australian population but accounts for 41% of young people enrolled in GD Clinics

This is evidence of clustering, a major phenomenon seen in other social contagions throughout history.

Evidence of social contagion

Source: Kenny, D.T. (2020). *Gender dysphoria in children and young people: collected papers on the psychology, sociology and ethics of gender transition*. Germany: Scholars Press

Most gender nonconforming children will later identify as a sexual minority



80% cross-gender behaving boys become gay men (Green, 2017).

Leibowitz, S. F., & Telingator, C. (2012). Assessing gender identity concerns in children and adolescents: evaluation, treatments, and outcomes. *Current Psychiatry Reports*, 14(2), 111-120.

Government Commissioners supporting “transgender rights for children”

The push to normalize transgenderism reduces child safety in several ways that are perhaps insufficiently understood. Here are a few examples:

- 1. Normalizing the involvement of children in highly sexualized cultures.**
 Historically, transvestitism, including drag, is associated with exotic sexual cultures and fetishes. Now, in the interests of “celebrating gender diversity”, Drag queens read to small children in libraries. These same individuals (very often) advertise an interest in kink, BDSM and exhibitionism. The phenomenon of “Drag Kids” normalizes the association of children with those cultures and facilitates recruitment. Cross-dressing boys in female attire plays to a particular fetish of some homosexual paedophiles.
- 2. Non-binary language reduces the ability of children to report abuse**
 The erasure of all gender markers – or the normalization of “non-binary” identities – is favoured by some LGBT activists who follow the recommendations of Judith Butler (one of the founders of modern queer theory). Butler argues that de-gendering language will promote greater equality, partly because it obscures distinctions between heterosexual and homosexual relationships. However, it is relevant to notice that gender neutral pronouns for children were first suggested in 1977, by the Childhood Sensuality Circle; promoting gender neutral language in schools involves implementing the recommendations of a paedophile group. Perhaps children who are uncertain about their identity are more easily manipulated? Certainly, children who do not have the language to describe male/female differences are at a disadvantage when it comes to accurate reporting of abuse. The importance of correct language was noted by the Royal Commission: degendering language works to reduce child safety.
- 3. Boys/men may occupy women’s private spaces**
 In the interests of “transgender inclusion”, boys and men are now free to enter female change rooms and toilet blocks. The opportunity for the exhibitionist to secure his sexual thrill is achieved, the violation of personal boundaries for girls is normalised. But if students object, this is represented as “bigotry” and the bigot is referred to the school learning and support team for re-education in correct beliefs. So, on the one hand we are teaching children to trust their instincts and report to an adult if they feel unsafe. But school policy now punishes them for doing just that.
- 4. Gagging mandatory reporters of child sexual abuse**
 According to Professor John Whitehall, the medical fraternity used to regard gender dysphoria in children as good reason to investigate the possibility of sexual abuse which was often (not always) the cause. Walt Hever, reports that at least half of the detransitioners he ministers to are victims of childhood sexual abuse. Bans on “conversion therapy” now proposed in Victoria, Queensland and the ACT would have the effect of normalising gender dysphoria for children and criminalising teachers, parents, pastors, therapists who might ask the children: “When did all this start?” In this way, the very people who would normally be mandatory reporters of child sexual abuse are gagged. If enacted, bans on “conversion therapy” will provide the legal mechanisms for punishing anyone who would protect children: those people who are considered “abusive” in the inverted moral universe of LGBT activism. It provides the needed excuse for “support groups” to intervene on behalf of “LGBT kids” and co-opts the might of the State in their service, even against parents.

These are the government-appointed gatekeepers of child safety who ought to be questioning and scrutinizing the “affirmation only” approach to transition for children. Instead, they are endorsing it.

E-Safety Commission



Julie Inman Grant



Australian Human Rights Commission



Ed Santow
Commissioner
Appointed 2016
(Turnbull)



Megan Mitchell
First National
Children’s
Commissioner
Appointed 2013
(Gillard)

State Commissioners for Children and Young People deserve a closer look, particularly:



Liana Buchanan
(Victoria)



Colin Pettit
(WA)

The ABC



Uses Georgie Stone to promote trans issues in children’s drama



ABC promoting Gay and Lesbian Youth Group to CHILDREN



2018: Cancelled requirement for Court approval for Stage 2 therapy (cross-sex hormones)



Anna Brown

- Director of Legal Advocacy and Strategic Litigation
- Human Rights Law Centre (HRLC)
- CEO of Equality Australia
- Member of Vic Gov LGBT Taskforce



Michelle Telfer

Paediatrician and Head of Department of Adolescent Medicine
 Director of the RCH Gender Service since 2012. Responsible for “development and expansion”.
“She is a strong advocate for legal change and improved access to medical and mental health care for transgender and gender diverse children and adolescents in Australia.”



This is presumably what “expansion” looks like



Rebekah Robertson and Georgie Stone

At the age of 10, Stone was the youngest person to receive hormone blockers in Australia, which set a precedent that eventually changed the law that compelled transgender children and their families to apply to the Family Court of Australia to access stage one treatment.



TRANSSEND

Founders

MarketWatch

Sex Reassignment Surgery Market Estimation, Global Share, Industry Outlook, Price Trend, Growth Opportunity and Top Regional Forecast 2026



Work alongside

Parents beware!!

Use your own judgement and knowledge of your child before deciding on gender transition.

If in doubt WAIT, WATCH and WONDER!

See:

www.diannakenny.com.au

Kenny, D.T. (2020). *Gender dysphoria in children and young people: Collected papers on the psychology, sociology and ethics of gender transition* (Scholars' Press).

Holloway, G (Ed) (2021). *Australian perspectives on transgenering children and adolescents: Policy and practice implications*. Sydney: Holloway

