



What should you write?

Your response should focus on:

- Why gender affirmation surgeries are vital for mental health and survival.
- The unfairness of making these surgeries inaccessible or unaffordable.
- How public funding will make a real, tangible difference in people's lives.

Examples of what you could say

1. Call out the injustice:

- “No one should have to put their life on hold or go into massive debt just to feel comfortable in their own skin. Medicare covering gender affirmation surgery would finally bring justice to so many people who have been overlooked and ignored.”
- “This isn't just about healthcare—it's about basic human dignity. Denying access to these surgeries tells trans and gender-diverse people that their lives don't matter. That's unacceptable.”

2. Highlight the human cost:

- “Without access to these surgeries, people are suffering. The stress, the hopelessness, the feeling of being trapped—it's unbearable. Medicare funding would give people hope, a future, and the ability to live authentically.”
- “We know that mental health improves when people can get the care they need. If we care about reducing depression and preventing suicide, this is the solution.”

3. Demand change for equity:

- “Healthcare is a right, not a privilege. Trans and gender-diverse people deserve the same access to care as everyone else, and it's time for Medicare to reflect that.”
- “Public funding of gender affirmation surgeries isn't just the right thing to do—it's the bare minimum for a fair and inclusive society.”



How to structure your response

1. Start strong:

- For example: “I’m writing to support MSAC application 1754 because Medicare needs to cover gender affirmation surgeries. This change is long overdue.”

2. Share your key points:

- Use your passion and personal insight to talk about the injustice, the impact on mental health, and the need for equity. Choose the points that feel most **powerful to you**.

3. End with conviction:

- For example: “This decision will send a clear message about whether Australia values fairness and human rights. I urge MSAC to do what’s right and approve this application.”

How to submit your response

- **Online survey:** <https://www.msac.gov.au/applications/1754>
- **Email:** Write your response in the Word template and send it to commentsMSAC@health.gov.au with the subject line “MSAC Application 1754.”

Some quotes that might help inspire you

Injustice and inequality

“It’s unacceptable that people are being forced to choose between financial ruin or living with constant distress because they can’t afford surgery.”

“Gender affirmation care is not a luxury—it’s essential healthcare. Denying access sends the message that trans and gender-diverse lives don’t matter.”



“Healthcare inequality is a stain on our society. It’s time for Australia to show that every person, regardless of their gender, deserves fair treatment.”

“Other countries are already funding gender affirmation procedures. Why is Australia still making trans and gender-diverse people fight for their basic rights?”

“Access to surgery shouldn’t depend on how much money someone has or whether they can travel to another country—it’s cruel and unjust.”

“Excluding gender affirmation surgery from public funding discriminates against one of the most marginalised groups in our society. It is a violation of the principle of equality.”

Human impact

“Every day that someone has to wait for surgery is another day of pain, distress, and feeling trapped in their own body.”

“I’ve seen how lack of access affects people’s mental health—people lose hope, and that hopelessness is devastating.”

“Imagine being told that the care you need to survive isn’t important enough to fund. That’s what trans and gender-diverse people face every day.”

“The emotional and financial strain on people who need surgery is immense, and it impacts their families and communities too.”

“Without access to these surgeries, people are more likely to experience anxiety, depression, and even suicidal thoughts. This is a life-and-death issue.”

Equity and inclusion

“Australia prides itself on fairness and equality—public funding for gender affirmation surgeries is a chance to prove it.”

“Equity in healthcare means meeting people’s unique needs. This change would bring us closer to that goal.”

“Trans and gender-diverse people are part of our communities. They deserve the same access to care as anyone else.”

“Making these surgeries accessible through Medicare would be a huge step forward for inclusion and equality.”



“Public funding would mean that everyone, not just the privileged few, can live with dignity and confidence.”

“Equity means providing the resources necessary to address specific needs. Public funding for gender affirmation surgery would reduce the inequities faced by trans and gender-diverse people.”

Mental health benefits

“The mental health improvements after surgery are undeniable—reduced depression, less anxiety, and a sense of freedom to live authentically.”

“Access to surgery doesn’t just improve lives—it saves them. It’s a proven way to reduce suicidal thoughts and self-harm.”

“When people can access the care they need, they can focus on living their lives instead of just surviving.”

“Surgery provides a sense of alignment between body and identity, which is key to mental wellbeing.”

“The ripple effects of improved mental health—on relationships, work, and community—are enormous. This is about more than just healthcare.”

Practical system benefits

Addressing inefficiencies

“Without specific MBS items, clinicians are forced to use unrelated codes, creating confusion and inefficiency in the healthcare system.”

“Approving these items will streamline billing and improve the clarity of gender affirmation care pathways for providers.”

“This change will reduce the administrative burden on clinicians who currently navigate convoluted funding processes.”

“Public funding would incentivise training and specialisation, building capacity in gender-affirming healthcare.”

“Having dedicated MBS items ensures consistent standards of care and avoids piecemeal approaches.”



Cost-effectiveness

“Public funding will lower the long-term cost burden on mental health and crisis services by addressing gender dysphoria early.”

“Patients unable to access care face higher healthcare costs later, such as emergency mental health interventions.”

“Investing in these surgeries through Medicare is more economical than the current system of private or overseas care.”

“Accessible surgeries reduce the financial and societal costs of untreated mental health issues.”

Economic and workforce benefits

“Gender affirmation surgeries improve quality of life, enabling people to participate more fully in work and education, which directly benefits the economy.”

“When people can live authentically and without distress, they are more likely to remain in the workforce, reducing reliance on government benefits and support.”

“Supporting gender-affirming care allows individuals to thrive, contributing to the economy as tax-paying, productive members of society.”

Alignment with human rights and national strategies

Human rights and dignity

“Access to healthcare is a fundamental human right. Denying public funding for gender affirmation surgery creates barriers that strip trans and gender-diverse people of their right to live healthy and fulfilling lives.”

“The right to health includes access to services that address both physical and mental wellbeing. Gender affirmation surgery is essential healthcare and must be treated as such.”

“No one should have to fight for recognition of their basic humanity. Public funding for gender affirmation surgery is about respecting and upholding the dignity of trans lives.”



Alignment with national strategies

“Approving MSAC application 1754 aligns with the National Action Plan’s commitment to equitable health outcomes, ensuring that trans and gender-diverse people can access the care they need to thrive.”

“The Plan emphasises reducing barriers to healthcare for LGBTIQ+ people. Publicly funding gender affirmation surgeries directly addresses these barriers.”

“The National Action Plan supports the integration of evidence-based care into healthcare systems. Gender affirmation surgeries are backed by robust clinical evidence as effective, life-saving interventions.”

Call to action

“This decision will define whether Australia values equity in healthcare. I urge MSAC to approve this application.”

“Trans and gender-diverse people can’t wait any longer. Please support this change and help save lives.”

“We have the evidence, the need, and the responsibility. It’s time to act and make gender affirmation surgeries accessible for all.”

“I call on MSAC to do what’s right and ensure that no one has to suffer because they can’t afford the care they need.”