



**Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA  
Minister for Health; Mental Health**

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Our Ref: 76-24855

Mr CJ Tallentire, MLA  
Chair  
Education and Health Standing Committee  
Parliament House  
4 Harvest Terrace  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

[laehsc@parliament.wa.gov.au](mailto:laehsc@parliament.wa.gov.au)

Dear Mr Tallentire *Chris,*

Thank you for your letter of 14 June 2023 requesting an update on priority access to counselling support for individuals impacted by the Esther House Foundation.

The Mental Health Commission (the Commission) initially secured agreement from four women's services to provide priority access for Esther House clients. Two of these services; Women's Health and Family Services (WHFS), Northbridge and Women's Health and Wellbeing Services (WHWS), Gosnells have confirmed that they are able to continue this arrangement. Both of these services have advised that they are able to provide support to individuals who identify as LGBTI+ if the individual is comfortable attending a women's health centre.

WHFS can be contacted at (08) 6330 5400 or [info@whfs.org.au](mailto:info@whfs.org.au) and WHWS can be contacted at 08 9490 1365 or email at [info@whws.org.au](mailto:info@whws.org.au).

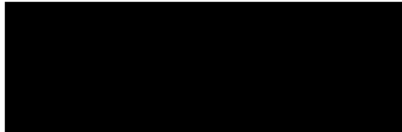
The two other organisations; Fremantle Women's Health Services and Midland Women's Health Care Place have advised that clients are triaged based on client need and availability of suitable counsellors. Because of the heavy demand from clients in crisis and very limited capacity they are unable to guarantee priority access for the Esther House clients.

Support and counselling to individuals identifying as LGBTI+ are available through the WA Aids Council who can be contacted by phone at 08 9482 0000, or by email at [freedomcounselling@waac.com.au](mailto:freedomcounselling@waac.com.au). The Department of Health Sexual Health Quarters, is available to provide counselling support to individuals identifying as LGBTI+ and can be contacted on the following; phone 08 9227 6177 and email at [counselling@shq.org.au](mailto:counselling@shq.org.au).

Counselling support is available from the Here For You mental health and alcohol and drug support line. The service is available from 7am to 10pm, seven days a week and can be contacted on 1800 437 348. This service would be available to provide support should a client be placed on a wait list.

I trust this information assists with your enquiry.

Kind regards



**HON AMBER-JADE SANDERSON MLA  
MINISTER FOR HEALTH; MENTAL HEALTH**

**11 AUG 2023**