

Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022

Submission No: 23
Submitted by: Thomas Davis
Publication: Making the submission and your name public

Submitter Comments:

I was raised from a very young age to be accepting and inclusive of gay and lesbian people. It was a shock to me, when I reached high school and experienced homophobia for the first time. Because I was into theatre and music and not much into rugby, my nickname throughout high school was '██████'. It made me feel horrible to be treated that way, but I could only imagine what it felt like for my friends who "Were actually Gay!" I was straight at the time, and remain in mostly heterosexual relationships to this day. And you know what? I will always have one foot in the closet. Because being queer is terrifying to so many otherwise rational people. And that fear turns into anger and resentment and violence. I am so privileged to feel at home in my own body, but that is not the case for many many people. And without reform to the current laws surrounding representation on a birth certificate, there are so many Aussie's being left behind, like trash. We pretend they don't exist and as long as we can't see them, trans people aren't there. A lot of that is because they have to hide. Applying for a job, applying for a home, opening a bank account, seeking medical treatment or assistance from law enforcement, are some of the many many basic aspects of life that we take for granted. These processes can be traumatic and even dangerous for trans people who remain in the closet. In a just society, the right to self-identification would be a God-given right. We wouldn't even have to think about the practical implications referenced above. We would and should respect the identity of our loved ones, and grant them the recognition they deserve in the eyes of the law. Some common decency for our LGBTQI+ brothers and sisters seems like a pretty good start.