

## Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022

**Submission No:** 30  
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### Submitter Comments:

Dear Committee, I am writing to you today for two reasons. To raise your awareness of Queensland's archaic sex recognition laws and to call to action changes to make Queensland inclusive and equal. Did you know that at least one LGBTQ+ young person aged 13 to 24 attempts suicide every 45 seconds in the U.S. alone? And that 45% of LGBTQ+ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year, including more than half of transgender and nonbinary youth. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, at the 2016 Census some 35% of sex/gender diverse people indicated they were non-binary or another gender. A further 26% reported they were trans male, trans female or transgender. Over a third of our population that don't have the same rights as you and I. All trans and gender diverse people are unique and will choose to affirm their gender in a way that feels right for them. Gender affirming care might include social affirmation, such as changing names, pronouns, hair or clothing. Queensland still don't have a full representation for our queer population! In fact, Queensland's archaic laws still require sexual reassignment surgery before permitting legal change of sex to be complete. This needs to be brought in line with other emerging queer friendly countries for acceptance and normalisation. Queensland and NSW are the only two states remaining in Australia to enforce this. Australians deserve to be at the forefront of normalisation, inclusivity and equality! This is a topic extremely close to me working with disadvantaged youth throughout Queensland. I have seen firsthand the impact of identity-based oppression through schools, families and friends. Although, it isn't just our youth that deserve better, we all do. I ask you to show your support for the removal of mandatory sexual reassignment surgery when requesting a legal sex change. Thank you