

Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022

Submission No: 59

Submitted by: 

Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name

Submitter Comments:

I do not agree with the new bill under which a person will no longer be required to undergo sexual reassignment surgery to formally register a change of sex. This means that men who 'identify as women', can change their legal sex with little more than some paper and a few strokes of a pen. The implications for women and girls cannot be understated. Such legislation will effectively allow men to self-identify into female-only activities, spaces and services, including sports, prisons, bathrooms, and refuges. But the Minister for Women is burying her head in the sand and ignoring the reality of violence against women already at alarming levels. The Minister has told women's advocates "there is no evidence in Australia or internationally to suggest that trans women pose an increased danger to cisgender women". First, we are not 'cisgender women', just women. We are not a subset of our own sex class. Second, that there is 'no evidence' is simply not true. Examples of women being harmed by trans-identified males in (what should be) women-only spaces abound. Just this year, we have heard stories of 'transwomen' raping women in women-only prisons, hospital wards and shelters. Women's relative physical vulnerability and male patterns of criminality do not dissipate simply because of a piece of paper. Almost more concerning than the bill itself, has been the concerted effort to ignore and silence women who oppose the legislation, both by trans activists and the Minister. The bill elevates gender identity over biological reality, women's and children's safety, and common sense. It is extraordinarily disappointing that it has been introduced by a woman, the 'Minister for Women', no less. This bill will legislate to add numerous further opportunities for violent offenders to perpetrate harm to women and girls, as if this was not already a huge problem across our communities today. This bill must not be passed in its current form without this part of it being necessarily amended to protect women and girls in Queensland, and not to further endanger them.