

Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022

Submission No: 98
Submitted by: Sandra Nugent
Publication: Making the submission and your name public

See attached:

**RE: The (proposed) Queensland Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022.
(The Bill)**

In December 2022, the **Queensland Minister for Women** Shannon Fentiman introduced The Bill, that **does not support women**. Under The Bill, a person will no longer be required to undergo sexual reassignment surgery or even a medical diagnosis, to formally register a change of sex.

The Bill, Part 5, Division 2, Subdivision 2 allows for proceedings to allow for applications to the Registrar to alter the record of sex of a child over 16 years of age (section 39) AND Under 16 years of aged (section 40).

In these applications it is important that the new sex descriptor is included as well as statements saying that the applicant has lived and identified as the described sex descriptor for over 12 months. For those over 16 this must be supported by a person over 18 years old who has known the applicant for over 12 months. For an under 16 year old the application must be supported by both parents unless only one parent is the sole provider of the child's care.

For over an over 16 year old, and in prison they must also produce written permission under the Corrective Services Act 2006, Section 27 AA or written permission under the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003, Section 43 ABA.

And of course, all applications must be accompanied by the prescribed fee.

This means that men who 'identify as women', can change their legal sex – using the sex descriptor of their choice (eg non-binary, queer gender, transgender etc), with little more than some written narrative and a few strokes of a pen. How a person feels is not a precursor for their sex.

The Bill is a nonsense.

Firstly, one cannot change one's sex. One is either male (Xy Chromosomes) or female (XX Chromosomes). Because a male may feel like being female does not make him so. And vice versa

Secondly, The Bill introduces a gender-neutral notion of birth parent going on to suggest the 'person of any sex who gave birth to the child' is used in relevant clauses. Only females can give birth! To not recognise this fact, is not only misogynistic and dehumanising it is far removed from reality.

Thirdly, The Bill does not consider the impact on women and girls on a raft of issues and situations such as, but not limited to:

- Bathrooms
- Hospital and health wards and clinics
- Domestic violence and homeless refuges
- Sports participation
- Female privilege affirmation action such as quotas in politics, business, funding and grants

The implications for women and girls cannot be understated.

Sex as a legal concept would effectively be abolished, and all the protections afforded to women and girls along with it.

And it is not only women who are concerned. Many men who are concerned about their daughters' safety and the distortion of reality.

The Minister for Women 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 and girl'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.

Trans – or whatever descriptor – rights should NOT trump women's rights.

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.