

SUBMISSION TO THE LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE,
QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT.

BIRTHS, DEATHS and MARRIAGES
REGISTRATION BILL 2022.

Suzanne Clarke, Stakeholder



Dear Committee Members,

I am writing this submission to oppose the change to Part 5 of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022.

I have grave concerns about what this means for the safety of women and girls. This is also about the loss of comfort, dignity and opportunity. To allow any man to self identify without safeguards is allowing predatory men to have an unprecedented opportunity to have access to women and children. To drop those safeguards is naive at best and most of all dangerous.

This is not about men with genuine gender dysphoria, it is about the potential for all men to access women's spaces. Question: Can any woman, or man, ask to see a trans identifying man or just a man who is entering a women's only space, birth certificate? Will it be considered bigoted and transphobic or even considered hate and illegal to ask to see evidence?

I understand that men who identify as women need to be safe, there needs to be protections in place to make sure they are just as safe as any other person. Why can't there be a third space which would alleviate the need for women who are very concerned about using women's public toilets, change rooms and showers etc when this legislation comes into effect? Women are scared for their safety at the mere thought of what this Bill means for women.

The government speaks about the comfort of trans people but has not considered the comfort of women who have, from the day they were born, protected themselves from being in vulnerable positions with unknown men. This is an innate instinct which you are asking all women to drop, you are asking every woman and child to put themselves at risk, to ignore their instincts. That is how people survive and have throughout history, trusting their instinct particularly in vulnerable situations.

The first female public toilet was introduced into Brisbane in 1912. Before public toilets became available for women, women could only travel as far as their bladder would allow them. I have spoken to many women who have said that they will be too afraid to use female public toilets once this Bill has passed. We are going back to the days where women's bladders dictated their lives. What about older women, and women of different

religions and cultures that need women's only spaces? Their culture and religion will prohibit them from using spaces that have been set aside for their needs. What is their alternative? What is your plan to secure their needs in society? Are you going to consider their comfort like you have by allowing men into women's spaces, it seems there is only concern about men's comfort and women are just to step aside and shut their mouths regardless of their discomfort.

Many women have been victims of male predatory behaviour, including me. I am a 64 year old woman who has been a victim of male predatory behaviour on numerous occasions. I still suffer the trauma of those incidents and the one thing that gives me comfort is having female only safe spaces. What am I to do about that trauma? Does women's trauma no longer count? Are you going to put aside funding for psychological treatment for women to assist them overcome their trauma they continue to have years after their abuse? Is there a magic bullet that will help women cope?

You cannot change the biology of a male bodied person. So if a man claims he is a woman that does not change male pattern violence. This does not mean that men are all violent but they do commit 98% of all sex based crimes against women and 98% of all criminality. With the amendment to the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022 a man does not need to change anything about himself other than the marker on his Birth certificate and we know that many men will understand they won't even need to do that if women and men cannot ask to see evidence that they have changed the marker on their birth certificate.

Research suggests strongly that taking female hormones, which most adult males who take on the identity of a woman these days do not take, does not reduce male pattern violence. On June 30 of last year there were 63 men who identified as women in Queensland jails, 6 were incarcerated as of that date for murder and 13 for serious sexual offences against women. Is the government going to move these men who claim they are women into the women's estate? Housing trans identifying men guilty of serious sexual assault against women into the Queensland Women's estate as has been the case in Victoria? Surely you are not going to risk the safety of the most vulnerable women in society. Surely given the Queensland government has made a commitment to reduce violence against women, or at least try, you would not make it easier and make vulnerable women even more vulnerable under your watch and care.

The Attorney General has claimed that there is no evidence either in Australia or overseas that men identifying as women have committed crimes against women. This is completely false, in fact just last Sunday the 6th January it was reported a convicted sex offender in the US has requested a transfer to a woman's prison as he now identifies as a woman. There is so much evidence of trans identifying men sexually abusing women and children both in Australia and overseas it is gobsmacking that the Attorney General could in good faith make such a claim. Women in prison have been raped overseas by trans identifying males and there is at least one instance of this happening in Victoria.

Male crimes are being recorded as female crimes and in the 2021 census data the Australian Bureau of Statistics reported a 38% increase in 'female' perpetrated sexual assault and related offences. Recording male crimes as female crimes is an injustice to

women who don't share that pattern of violence or criminality. This means that the data collected in female crimes is being misreported. This is a travesty.

If a trans 'woman' can claim to be a woman but a woman can not claim herself to be a trans woman, because she does identify as the sex she was born as, how can we be one and the same?

More than 95% of men identifying as women choose to keep their male genitalia. The vast majority of men claiming to be women have female partners or are only attracted to women and they have heterosexual sex. A man with genuine gender dysphoria is uncomfortable with his genitalia and it causes them great distress and therefore they feel the need to have gender reassignment.

Have you heard of autogynephilia and the prevalence of that? Are you familiar with the research by Ray Blanchard? Approximately 4% of men have this paraphilia and this is on the increase, they change nothing about themselves other than appropriating the term 'woman' and simply wear makeup and wear women's clothes while still having heterosexual sex with their female partners. There are many middle aged men coming out as women, where are all the middle aged women who have come out as men? This paraphilia primarily affects men, very few women have this paraphilia. If gender confusion is so prevalent in society then why are we not seeing middle aged women coming out as men, we are just not seeing this happen.

We are not talking about men with gender dysphoria here, we are talking about autogynephilia, these are the men who want access to women's safe spaces. Men who have transitioned in the past have taken years to do so and they go to great lengths to pass as a woman. They are respectful to women, they don't grandstand and they have been using female toilets for decades because they pass as enough as a woman and there is no way they could use a men's facility, these men don't pose a threat to women. These days men just put on a dress without any other changes. They look like a man in a dress and high heels. How are we to know which man is a predator and which one isn't? This is why we have single sex spaces because we can't tell.

Why are so many trans people, lesbian, gay and bisexuals opposed to gender ideology? Why are lesbians being harassed by men who claim they are lesbian women forcing their way into lesbian spaces and abusing lesbians who don't want and will not have intimate relationships with them. Lesbians and gays are same sex attracted and this is conversion therapy, it is being forced onto them, they are being told they are obsessed with genitals, that they are transphobic and that unless they have heterosexual sex they are transphobic, bigots. Women with penises and men with vaginas are sexually forcing themselves on to a minority that have fought for decades to come out of the 'closet' who are now being forced back into the closet because they are being called derogatory names like 'faggot' because they don't choose to have heterosexual sex.

The Pride Flag is no longer a symbol of inclusion, it is a symbol of division. The LGB Alliance has been formed globally in opposition to gender ideology because they consider gender ideology not just misogynistic but also completely homophobic. They are being told that they have been born in the wrong body and that they have to transition to the opposite

sex. Lesbians and gay men are being discriminated against and it is being government sanctioned. All the advancements they have made have been taken from them in one foul swoop. What this change to birth certificates represents is misogyny and homophobia and drops all safeguarding for women and children.

The Minister for Women has refused to meet with women's groups claiming that women are not stakeholders. How can women not be stakeholders!!, when this Bill takes away our sex based rights. The Attorney General claims that we are cloaking our transphobia under the guise of women's safety. How could the Minister for Women allow this sentence to even leave her lips. Does the Minister for Women believe that once a man simply states he is a woman that he is no longer a threat, does the Minister believe that violence towards women only occurs in domestic situations. Tell that to all those women who have been violated and killed by men they did not know. I have been the victim of male predatory behaviour 5 times, 4 of those times by unknown men.

I have been told that if a man is going to rape or kill a woman he will do it regardless of whether they are allowed into women's spaces, so in otherwords why bother with safeguarding. Those safe spaces have been set aside as a place of safety for women, to reduce sexual assault and violence towards women. These men choose vulnerable women in vulnerable situations so instead of increasing safeguarding the Minister chooses to relax that safeguarding to make it easier for a predatory man to make the declaration he is a woman so he can access women only spaces.

Will the government make itself personally responsible for those women and children that fall victim to a predatory male in female only spaces? because you have allowed any man into a safe space.

Overseas there have been rapes in DV shelters and women's homeless shelters by men who have accessed these spaces based on self id, he claims he is a woman and by default he is automatically allowed into these facilities that have been set up by women for women. Or do you think an Australian man who claims to be a woman would not be predatory because if you do you need to do your research as men who claim they are women in Australia have already been charged with sexual abuse against women and children and grooming of children. Even Nicola Sturgeon the First Minister of Scotland has admitted that sex self identification will allow predatory men into women's spaces and will put women at risk, however she believed that the risk to women was worth pandering to these predatory men to make other men feel more comfortable with their situation not giving a damn about the 51% of the population who are uncomfortable.

The women who currently feel comfortable about allowing men in their safe spaces will in time change their mind just like it has shown to happen overseas. Australia is 7 years behind Britain, the support for gender ideology has reduced significantly over the years as the public have encountered adverse situations directly attributable to this social construct, this fabrication of reality. Sex self id is what happens when politicians reject biology, common sense and the imperative to protect women against male violence.

In summary:

I am opposed to men who believe that they are exactly the same as a biological woman insisting that the rights women have fought for should include them. I am opposed to any man who says he is a woman being allowed into women's toilets, change rooms, showers, DV shelters.....any facility that is dedicated to women, no questions asked.

I am opposed to Drag Queens reading to 3 to 8 year old children telling them they may not be the sex they were 'assigned' at birth. Gender ideology should be removed from schools. Children can't drive or drink until they are 18, they can't even vote until they are 18. Their brains are not fully developed and they can be easily confused. This ideology has a very negative effect on children, particularly those with other comorbidities. If as an adult they want to head down this path then as an adult this is when they should make this decision.

I am opposed to children being put on puberty blockers which sterilises them, young girls as young as 15 having double mastectomies because they are being told in schools by educators they may have been born in the wrong body.

I am opposed to men who claim they are women in prison, who are incarcerated for sexual offences against women and children, being transferred into the women's estate. As evidenced overseas, returning to live as a man upon release. Women are being violated in prisons because of the lack of safeguarding just for believing a man who says he is a woman with a penis is no risk to vulnerable women.

I am opposed to women being referred to as 'cis' women becoming a subcategory of our own sex with men with a gender identity having protections greater than women.

I am opposed to changing our language, such as mother to birthing parent, breast feeding to chest feeding, women being referred to as 'bleeders' 'people with uteruses'....demeaning language, coercive language. People are afraid to say what a woman is, how demeaning is that when our own politicians cringe and refuse to answer what the definition of a woman is. We are being erased to cater for men.

I am opposed to changing the birth certificate as outlined by the government. I am opposed to people changing their birth certificate to reflect the sex that they are not, being able to change their name and 'gender' every single year. This is just great for criminals. When a marker is changed on a birth certificate will their old certificate be taken from them or can they accumulate birth certificates and have different identities with birth certificates to support the identity these people choose on any given day?

I am opposed to the refusal to meet with women when we are supposed to be living in a democracy. I am opposed to the lack of consultation with the major stakeholders here which are women as the government is taking away our sex based rights, rights that have been hard won over the last 100 years plus.

I also want to know that when in 2024 this Bill comes into effect is the government going to run a campaign to let the public know of these changes? If the public, and the vast majority are unaware because it is being brought in by stealth, are unaware and they confront these

men claiming to be women going into women's spaces there could be consequences that most of us expect, violence and possibly the death of someone.

I know about the impact of this Bill so I can prepare myself by not using public toilets and not using women's services where I will feel uncomfortable by the presence of a man. Yes, thanks for limiting my options. Every aged care facility needs to be made fully aware of these changes as family members may take them out in public and they may encounter a man in a women's toilets, as an example, and call the man out. You keep telling us that misgendering a person is violence and I have seen how violent these men can be to you personally if you dare to claim that sex is real and that a male body is not the same as an adult human female. I have seen how trans activists have hacked social media accounts of people who are gender critical, even bank accounts have been hacked.

The Queensland government says there is no debate and won't even meet with women to discuss this issue. Can you imagine if you were not allowed to debate a proposal introduced into parliament being told NO DEBATE. We have no free speech when it comes to gender ideology. I honestly feel that I no longer live in a democracy, that I am now living my life in an authoritarian regime which is driven by men, not those with gender dysphoria, but those with paraphilia.

I thought women's rights had progressed but through this disregard for women and the fears that we have has shown that women have no rights. We can't even rely on the Minister for Women, the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence to advocate for women unless they have XY chromosomes.

Men can never be women, they can identify as a woman but that does not give them the same privileges of an actual woman who is an adult human female. I don't care how anyone wants to identify. I agree every person, regardless of how they identify, deserves the protection of the State. But women are not shields for men, they feel uncomfortable using men's toilets, well guess what, we feel uncomfortable having men who simply slap on some make up, a dress and have not been psychologically evaluated to ensure they are not a threat to women's safety being allowed into every space that women have fought for.

A third space needs to be set up, services need to be set up for trans identifying people as their needs are very different to mine in many regards. A woman does not have a penis and a man does not have a vagina and lesbians and gays need protection. They should not be coerced into having sex with the opposite sex when they are same sex attracted. Children should not be coerced into believing they were born in the wrong body, let them become adults to make that decision. Changing birth certificates because of a person's lived experience is not what a birth certificate represents. A birth certificate is a legal document that records a person's birth, a person is not assigned a sex at birth. Why not have a birth certificate that has an added marker to show their lived identity.

Trans people do have wide public acceptance already regardless of what the government claims, there is no reason to change the birth sex on a birth certificate, you can have a field which includes gender. I do not know one person who is transphobic, only concerned by women's and children's rights. Just because you care about your comfort, safety and dignity does not make you transphobic.

With the changes to the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration you are telling us to allow heterosexual men into women only spaces. The vast majority of men who claim they are women have female partners, they have heterosexual sex as they keep and use their male genitalia.

I would have far less of a problem with gay men sharing women's spaces as I would feel safer with gay men than men calling themselves women. If they are still attracted to the opposite sex then why do you think calling themselves a woman means they are any different to a man that recognises he is a man, they are both attracted to female bodies. How many women and children are you willing to sacrifice to appear inclusive?

I do not agree with the Bill in its proposed state, it endangers women, children, lesbians and gay men.

Thank you for providing me with an opportunity to raise the concerns I have with the amendment to the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill of 2022.

Regards

Sue Clarke



10 January 2023