

**DR. BETTY McLELLAN**

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Mail address:

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Committee Secretary  
Legal Affairs and Safety Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Secretary,

**Re: Objection to proposed Queensland Births, Deaths and Marriages  
Registration Bill 2022.**

I write to express my strong objection to the self-identification sections of the above Bill. I am a long-time feminist and a psychotherapist by profession, with a tertiary degree in Ethics and Psychology.

My objections are made with reference to the psychological wellbeing of transgendered men and women; the safety of women who will no longer have the guarantee of safe-spaces; and the ethics involved in the blatant setting aside of truth and scientific evidence.

***Psychological concerns***

I am well aware of the psychological struggles some trans people have to deal with, and support an individual's right to live as a person of the other gender. To rewrite history, however, in an attempt to obliterate the early years of one's life, is a pretence that is extremely damaging psychologically, and I cannot accept or support such state-sanctioned self-deceit.

Surely a better way for all concerned is to accept the facts as they are and for society to be educated to accept that some men and women will choose to change gender and be known as transwomen and transmen. There's no shame in that, no pretence and no psychological confusion for the trans people involved.

*Children.* I object in the strongest possible terms to a law which allows changes to the gender description of children. One doesn't have to be psychologically trained to know that children are momentarily attracted to this trend and then that. Ask any parent.

Please allow children and teenagers to work through their likes and dislikes till they are mature enough to settle on the kind of life they would like to live. Let a boy live as a girl for a while, if he wishes, or a girl live as a boy, but please don't lock them in by going through the process of changing their gender on their birth certificates. Once that happens, the pressures on them to stay in that gender would be enormous.

### ***Women's safety***

As a feminist who has fought for many decades to secure the safety of women and who, in recent years, has worked as a counsellor at the North Queensland Domestic Violence Resource Service, I know that most violence against women is perpetrated by men. Since the 1980s, many of us feminists have agitated, protested, demonstrated to have governments understand that women need safe spaces – spaces where they can go, secure in the knowledge that there will be no men there. With this proposed self-identification Bill, women's safety would never again be assured. There would be no place for women to go to escape the fear and the very real possibility of male violence.

How can it be that a Labor government with such great credentials in the area of support for Women's Services, Domestic and Family Violence Services, Rape Crisis Services, will now allow men – genitally-intact men, men who have learned the lessons of privilege that society teaches all men and boys – to invade all of women's safe spaces: women's services, women's prisons, women's sport, women's toilets, women's changing rooms?

And how can it be that the safety of transwomen will now take precedence over the safety of women? Surely there's a way to keep trans people safe without women, once again, having to be the sacrificial lambs.

### ***Ethical considerations***

As I read the self-identification sections of the proposed Bill, I can't help asking: Where is truth in all this? And: How could such setting-aside of scientific facts about sex actually achieve a wholesome outcome for Queensland and Queenslanders? Are we all to live with the consequences of this state-sanctioned misinformation?

I realise that our Queensland Government must be under enormous pressure from international and national bodies, not to mention the extremely aggressive lobbying

that the trans lobby is famous for around the world, but surely a respect for truth must prevail.


In conclusion, I plead with the government – for the sake of the mental health of trans people, for the sake of women’s ongoing safety, and for the sake of a healthy, harmonious society that rejects misinformation and respects truth – to delay the passing of this Bill and allow time for consultation. And let your consultation be with a wide range of Queensland residents.


Yours sincerely,




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Psychotherapist

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