

## Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022

**Submission No:** 188  
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**Submitter Comments:**

As a non-binary person I support the proposed reforms to the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022. I have previously changed my name, but was incredibly disheartened when I was unable to alter my record of sex to best represent my gender identity. These reforms are powerful in their support for LGBTQIA+ people and their right to have their identity represented on identity documents. These reforms will do a world of good in eliminating many of the financial and medical barriers that currently prevent transgender and gender-diverse people from altering their recorded sex. The move towards self-declaration is validating of an individual's choice to socially transition without requiring medical transition to be inherent in this transition being legally recognized.

### *Legal recognition of trans and gender diverse people*

- I support the use of the self-declaration model to alter the record of sex to legally recognize an individual's gender. This change is important in giving autonomy to the individual by decoupling medical transition from legal transition. Medical transition is often unattainable and unwanted, and should not be a prerequisite for legal recognition of one's gender.
- I support the statutory declaration process. with the understanding that any requirement involving medical personnel increases burden on both the individual seeking to alter their birth certificate and medical services. A statutory declaration by someone known to the person making the application is sufficient to ensure applications are made in good faith, without introducing additional burdens and barriers to the individual.
- I support the legal recognition of non-binary genders. Enabling people to select a sex descriptor of their choice allows for legal recognition of non-binary genders at an individual level while not restricting the terminology that someone may use to describe their own gender.
- I support the 'opt in' approach to displaying sex information on a birth certificate.
- In addition, I recommend that a person changing their name be able to receive a birth certificate without a notation of any previous names. My current birth certificate contains my deadname, and this definitely makes me feel uncomfortable in providing the document. A second certificate with notations or a letter from the registrar will enable the person to bridge their identities without forcing them to disclose their trans identity in the future when presenting the document.

### *Recognising parenting and family structures*

- I support the option for parents to select from "mother", "father", and "parent". This allows the birth certificate to better reflect each parent's familial role and recognize that these roles are not necessarily tied to being the birthing or non-birthing parent of a child. The choice of parental descriptor is deeply personal and of great value to the individual, and this change affords every person to select a term that appropriately describes their relationship to their child.
- I support the provision of a corrections process that allows parents to update parenting descriptors on birth certificates of their children that were registered prior to the reforms.

## *Anti-Discrimination Act amendments*

- I support all amendments to the Anti-Discrimination Act.

I support these reforms as people of diverse gender, sex, and sexuality deserve equitable legal recognition of their lives and roles in society. These reforms enable individuals to make decisions about how their identity documentation best reflects themselves, a decision that should not be constrained by medical requirements, financial pressures, or gender and sex roles that do not reflect their lived experience.