

Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022

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Making the submission public but withholding your name

See attached:

To the committee reading this document, thank you for considering passing this bill.

I would like to let you know that just reading this helps a lot to the trans community.

However, due to personal experience I'd like to politely ask that you pass the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022.

I am a person who falls under the trans umbrella, although I may not have experienced that much transphobia myself, I do understand how dehumanising it feels when a person is explicitly degrading of other trans individuals. Since I have only told my closest family, friends and other supporting adults I have experienced mostly support. Although I know this isn't a universal experience.

The ability to change the documents that match our identity is an opportunity that fellow trans people should have. I know that this simple change will help all those who do not identify with their sex assigned at birth everywhere. Those who identify as trans, non-binary, genderqueer, intersex, agender etc. It affirms their gender identity a lot.

In settings, where one must get their government documents such as their tax file number, proof of age card, drivers' licence, passport, birth certificate and more. It helps cut out the dysphoria one might feel when applying for those documents. It also helps remove the confusion the employees may feel. For example, say there is a medically transitioned trans man that goes to apply for his proof of age card, however his birth certificate says that he is a female. If you were the employee that was helping him, would you feel confused? Since right in front of you there is a man with a beard trying to get his proof of age card, yet his birth certificate says he is a female. What would you do?

This is a situation that could and probably has happened to trans people. They go to apply for their government documents, but the sex on their birth certificate does not match their identity. This can bring a lot of anxiety to them, and a lot of questions.

What if they didn't want to get outed? What if they didn't want to explain their situation to the officer? What if the officer was transphobic? What if the officer just didn't understand? What if the officer applied their gender as the one on their birth certificate and not their gender identity?

It becomes an unnecessary hurdle one would have to go through. Then imagine doing that to every single government document they apply for. It becomes tiring and frustrating.

This is something that a cisgender person will never experience. Trying to explain and prove their gender identity. Since their gender identity matches what it says on their birth certificate, they don't have to go through this at all.

But imagine taking that privilege away. Imagine every time single time you go to apply for government documents, you must prove to the officer that you are telling the truth. Imagine the feeling of having official documents not match the way you identify and perceive yourself. Imagine facing the confusion or disgust of those who don't agree with your existence.

An existence that you can not control. An existence that can feel isolating. An existence that scientists back up, yet people still do not believe.

It is with a heavy heart that I plead, I beg that you pass this bill, because it can help a lot of people in Queensland.

From a non-binary person.