

Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022

Submission No: 198

Submitted by: [REDACTED]

Submitter Comments:

I adamantly oppose the amendments to this legislation. Once again democracy has taken a backseat and the Queensland government is pandering to a minority group and by doing so is taking discriminatory action against the majority of those who biologically identify as female. Women deserve the right to feel safe and few men understand the insidious nature of having their body invaded or having another person violate them in some other unwarranted and undesired way. This legislation opens the pathway for more of this to occur. There is no question that generally people born as male are significantly stronger than those born as female and that some of those men are quite prepared to use that strength to gain their own way. Biological women deserve to have safe spaces to go when in situations that put them in positions of vulnerability. They should not have to question the status of the people around them. While I would like to believe that all of our LGBTIQ+ community are honest and truthful there are many within general society who are not, and it is those people who pose the most threat. There are men who will take advantage of this legislation to put themselves in positions to take advantage of our female population and this will put at risk all women of any age from our youngsters right through to our aged. I might add it will also put those LGBTIQ+ who are being honest about their status equally at risk. I am the mother of two daughters, one of whom has been through the most horrendous act of being raped; who then decided that the only way to remain safe was to steer clear of men altogether by "becoming" gay and who then spent several years living that way only to discover the agony of living incongruently, to then having to go through the ensuing process of dealing with all of that to find out that she was truly a female with all the needs, hopes and desires of being just that – "truly female". She is now extremely happy in a long-term heterosexual relationship and mother to a beautiful little girl. It's been a tough time for her and all who care for her, and she has been surrounded by an incredibly loving supportive community. No matter how she has identified we have accepted her. While I agree that not everyone is so fortunate, I do not believe changing legislation is the answer. Getting down into the nitty gritty of why people are so prejudicial and changing that, is. We need to focus instead on our culture. There should also never be a time where we allow our young people to make a gender decision before adulthood, generally considered to be in our early to mid-twenties. It is a normal part of life for our youngsters and especially teenagers to be confused about many things. We must give them the time and support they need to explore what they like and dislike and to find out what is right "for them." The current push within our education system regarding gender is confusing many of our children and they are being encouraged to act rather than explore what it is they are actually experiencing. Gender reassignment is a big deal and completely inappropriate for someone at an early age. In fact, anyone recommending it is completely irresponsible and I mean every single aspect of it. There should be absolutely no interference with a child's body in any way until they are old enough to do their own quality research and fully understand what is going to happen because unlike experimenting with the colour of your hair or whether you like piercings or not, it cannot be changed back. With this legislation decades of work, and very much longer, to bring equality and safety to women will be wiped out. We will be taking an unquantifiable backwards step. I am in full support of ALL people being able to live their life in the identity they choose but they should be able to do that without the necessity to change legal documentation. Changing "sex" on a document does not actually change anything at all. If the members of our LGBTIQ+ community truly embrace themselves and who they are then being "outed" shouldn't be a problem. They would own it and be truthful about that whatever situation they might find themselves in. There would be NO "outing" because it would be on the table from the beginning. If they are not yet able to do that then I would

suggest that they are not yet sure about exactly who they are. It certainly took some years for our daughter to work that out for herself. Changing the legislation will not change other people's perceptions or responses and it certainly will not stop discrimination. That will only occur when the underlying culture is addressed. As a result, I believe this legislation will only increase the divisiveness within our communities at large. Telling people how they are expected to behave and actually having that happen are two very different things. In fact, it often causes the opposite to occur. There will never be a set of rules that is going to work for everyone no matter what area of life we look at. That's why democracies were born. Doing what's best for the majority while doing our best to serve our minorities within that scope is a work in progress and always will be. Please let your common sense prevail and oppose these changes.