

## Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022

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## The Queensland Births, Deaths, and Marriages Registration Bill 2022

The category “woman” will cease to function, both in society and in law, as a mixed-sex class. Our social conventions, which exist for the sake of women’s privacy, safety, and dignity, rely on single-sex environments and services. Equally, laws which are meant to address women’s historical marginalization, or women’s reproductive burden, cannot reasonably allow the inclusion of males. And yet, if males are allowed under the aegis “women”, there will be no legal way to exclude them. The argument that males will not use these allotments in any number, discounts the competitive socialization of males from a very early age. There are already disproportionate numbers of trans identifying males studying at historical Women’s Universities, competing at every level of women sports, occupying short-listed spots, and taking sex-specific awards and bursaries of all sorts.

It’s easy to focus on the more significant issues of serious harm (e.g. violent males housed in female prisons), but one major issue for women is the pervasiveness of the *male gaze*. Like fish in water, we are not usually aware of how we are constantly viewed, and judged wanting. All women’s gyms, women’s swim sessions, lesbian meetups, whatever the reason, there is a sense of freedom, of not being judged, in the absence of men. Males, no matter how they identify, bring the *male gaze* with them. Additionally, for some women there are religious and cultural strictures, such that their dignity prevents them being in a partial state of undress in the presence of males.

Creating a new mixed-sex class “woman”, in both law and convention, will eliminate female only spaces. All spaces will be open to all males, not just males who have gone through the legal process of Self ID. No woman will be able to, as convention now allows, challenge any male in a female only space. **Because all women’s spaces will become mixed-sex**, including men without a change of Self-ID, there to be creepy, plant a camera, or assault someone.

As many women, and men, have said, Self-ID is a pervert’s charter. We have separate male and female spaces, not because all men are bad, but because enough are, that segregated space is a simple and practical safeguarding measure. And both sexes like their dignity. This law would actively seek to dismantle a system that is working well for the vast majority of the population.