

Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022

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Submitter Comments:

As a transgender person from Tasmania, I can say without doubt that the legislation we introduced has made my life so much easier. Any requirement for surgical intervention makes it impossible for most trans people to update our documents to reflect who we really are. The waiting lists for surgery are years long, the costs tens of thousands, and as such most trans people are never going to be able to afford it. Even if we could, it's unacceptable for the state to mandate a surgical intervention. We live our lives presenting as our affirmed selves, and it's embarrassing and frustrating when our documentation shows something clearly different. This outs us and opens us up to ridicule or even violence in response. There's zero harm in allowing our documentation to match our affirmed selves, either; we already access spaces and services that match our outward presentation regardless of what our documentation says. So please, bring forward self ID like Tassie has, allowing for non-binary options and even allowing for people to just not have a gender on their birth certificate. It makes such a huge positive difference to our lives, and harms nobody.