

Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022

Submission No: 252
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name

Submitter Comments:

Trans and gender diverse people have existed for such a long time. This isn't new. Other cultures recognise the existence of more than two genders, and federally and other states than Queensland allow for people to self-identify their gender - or omit their gender - from documents. This includes Medicare, Centrelink and a marriage license without needing surgery. This is important because it proves there are multiple ways to confirm someone's identity through paperwork than gender, so legally this isn't necessary. It is unjust and nonsensical that a person's experience can be so different just by being in a different state. Personally though allowing this change will positively impact people who are either trans, or intersex, or non-binary. They get to self-identify without needing someone else's authority or surgery. It affirms trans and gender diverse people, protects them from discrimination and improves the mental health of those who are affected by the paperwork outing them or not matching with who they are. People who require a gender change on a form aren't doing this on a whim. I personally know several trans and non-binary people, and have seen decades long journeys in action. They are thoughtful people who have spent years considering themselves, their identity and gender, and arrive at this point and find peace. Then, experience pain and confusion - not from being trans or non-binary, but from systems that don't healthily recognise them as such. This could easily be mitigated with systemic paperwork changes. This is no affront to those who are male or female currently and have no need to change any documentation, there is no negative side to this, only positive.