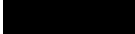


## Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022

**Submission No:** 263  
**Submitted by:**   
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name

### Submitter Comments:

I am a transgender woman who would like to change her name and gender legally. The current unjust law prevents me from changing my gender on my birth certificate without undergoing gender affirming surgery. These surgeries are expensive (they are not covered by Medicare) and many transgender people don't desire them. Being denied the right to affirm my gender on my birth certificate denies me agency, dignity, and my basic human right to self-determination. The requirement for surgery is unjust and exclusionary. It is humiliating to change my title to Ms, and legally adopt a female name, but to still be registered as male. People who aren't transgender do not suffer this indignity. I fully support amending our laws to allow people to change the legal gender recorded on their birth certificate. Furthermore, there are people whose gender is neither man nor woman. I support having appropriate legal gender descriptors available to them, including the option to not have a gender descriptor. I also support the process of legally changing your gender being free of charge and requiring a statutory declaration from a person who has known you for at least twelve months. Looking to the future, as our understandings of gender evolve, I believe that recording a gender on a birth certificate should be an opt-in process when people are born. Changing the law to allow people to change the legal gender recorded on their birth certificate would improve the wellbeing of me and many transgender people in my life. It will enhance our freedom, dignity, and right to self-determination. I thank the Committee for reviewing my submission.