

Carolyn Ride

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SUBMISSION TO THE LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE, QUEENSLAND BIRTHS DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION BILL 2022.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Part 5 of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022 which would usher in Self-ID law in Queensland. If passed, this section will undermine the safety, dignity and privacy of women and children. It will allow sexual predators to identify into the gender of those they want easy physical and sexual access to. It will force people to be compelled to lie about how biology works, because there are only 2 sexes. It will particularly affect those of different political and religious beliefs, while favouring the religious notion that a woman or a man is anyone who claims to be so. It will silence free speech as people can lose their jobs and be taken to the Human Rights Tribunal for not wanting to comply with self-selected pronouns and compelled speech. It will criminalise gays and lesbians who want to have single-sex events and date people of the same sex. It will disproportionately harm older, CALD, and cognitively impaired Queenslanders who will struggle to understand the language and requirements of gender ideology. It will create huge problems for the accurate collection of data for health needs, law and order/border protection and the Australian Census.

TRANSGENDER DOES NOT EQUAL TRANSEXUAL AND TRANSEXUAL DOES NOT EQUAL NO THREAT TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN

The changes outlined in Part 5 remove the necessity of undergoing Gender Confirmation Surgery (GCS) before changing gender markers on official documents. Anyone over 16 requires only a Statutory Declaration that the person “lives or seeks to live as a person identified by that sex”. This increases the amount of people who can enter any space they want by saying that’s where they identify as belonging. This is known as Self-ID. When those people are men identifying as women or nonbinary, they are almost always men with intact male genitalia who are sexually attracted to women and girls. I will call them trans-identifying men or TIMs for short. Others may prefer trans women or MtFs, but as a follower of biological reality I prefer TIMs. Australian statistics are elusive, but in the US TIMs report bottom surgery (removing and inverting the penis to create an imitation vagina) at rates between 5-13%. It is important to note that male to female transgender rarely means transsexual (with GCS).

When allowing any man who Self-IDs as a woman or girl into any space the latter are at risk of violence as they can neither remove him or call security or police to do so. A 30-year Swedish cohort study by Dhejne et al (1973-2003) [only looking at male to female transsexuals who had GCS](#) showed that they “retained a male pattern regarding criminality” and were 6 times more likely to be convicted of an offence than women and 18 times more likely to be convicted of a violent offense. These did not include TIMs who did not have GCS.

MALE SEXUAL PREDATORS, TRANSGENDER IDENTITY AND PRISONS

Looking at sex offences in male-born prisoners in the UK identifying as transgender in a 2019 survey,

76 out of 129 trans women or TIMs (58.9%) were sex offenders

13234 out of 78781 men (16.8%) were sex offenders

125 out of 3812 women (3.3%) were sex offenders

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1 in 20 female prisoners were men identifying as women

<https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/18973/pdf>

Unfortunately, lack of freedom of information means we do not have available statistics for Australia and if a man identifies as female his crime is recorded as perpetrated by a woman. There are known cases. Lisa Jones in Victoria (sexual assault of a woman in 2021, reported as a woman-on-woman crime in Australian media) is possibly the unnamed subject of a petition to remove him from the Dame Phyllis Frost Correctional Centre). The petition says the female prisoners feel “threatened, unsafe, distressed and traumatised”. Victoria is a Self-ID State. In 2017, Evie Amati in NSW (a Self-ID State re prisons) attacked and tried to kill 3 strangers with an axe after sending threatening messages to a female Tinder date who romantically rejected her. His victims suffered severe ongoing head injuries and he has been involved in fights at the Mary Wade Women’s Correctional Centre with women who feel he belongs in male prison. He will be eligible for parole in 2025.

It is not known where pedophiles Jayda Dean French - convicted of possessing extreme child sexual abuse materials of babies to teens - or Rachel Queen Burton - facing 8 child sexual abuse charges which may involve his 4 children - will be imprisoned as they are in South Australia which houses TIM prisoners on a case-by-case basis. We do know that if they were Queensland residents subject to Section 5 they would automatically go to women’s prison. We are also waiting to hear whether one of Australia’s most notorious serial killers, Reginald (Regina) Arthurell, will be housed with women or men after his latest charge of inappropriate sexual touching but mostly the policy is to house prisoners in the estate of their preferred gender. It does not matter for the purposes of Self-ID whether trans status happened during the crime or after imprisonment with men, and it does not matter whether any transition is undertaken (HRT, surgery). The State of California has 297 TIM prisoners awaiting transfer to women’s prisons and they are a mix of identifying as trans when arrested, identifying as trans in men’s prisons and getting free treatment, and men identifying as trans in men’s prisons but refusing treatment, in other words men by any reasonable person’s definition. This is how any predator can abuse Section 5 to have a legal means to be close to their victims, and this is Self-ID at work.

Let us not forget that Shannon Fentiman, Attorney-General, Minister For Justice and for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence said ‘I am advised that there is no evidence in Australia or internationally to suggest that trans women pose an increased danger to cisgender women.’

FORCING US TO LIE ABOUT REALITY AND QUASHING FREE SPEECH

We can extrapolate the Swedish and UK data (and there is much more from the US and Canada) to show that men identifying as women, whatever their medical trans status, are a threat to the safety, dignity and privacy of women and children. We also know, from research and from listening to women, that women-only/women and children-only domestic violence refuges, rape crisis centres and social spaces are quickly disappearing throughout Australia. Looking at Queensland rape crisis services, all are open to “all genders” on their website except for the Brisbane Rape and Incest Crisis Centre BRISSC which advertises as women-only. On speaking to employees, women-only means anyone who identifies as one. I used to work at BRISSC and met many women traumatised by men, who would be terrified to hear a male voice and see a male-bodied person in a supposedly safe and private space. One of the most

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common effects of PTSD are anxiety/panic and hypervigilance. While it is re-traumatising, hypervigilance can lead to avoiding further violence.

With Self-ID, women and girls will be forced to ignore instincts designed to save them from violence. They must let TIMs who may be predatory enter their crisis centres, bathrooms, changerooms and sports teams. Also, women with disabilities or other mobility issues who want a female worker for intimate care (feeding, showering, dealing with bodily wastes) will not be able to request a biologically female carer. If they request a female carer, they may be refused service for being “troublesome” patients. This has happened to a sexual assault survivor in the UK NHS who was refused emergency surgery for requesting an all-women care team and refusing to fill in her pronouns on the intake form.

Women and girls are already learning to keep their honest opinions about biology and definitions we have agreed on for years to themselves so as not to anger the gender cult. A quick skim read of the Australian website noconflicttheysaid.org will give you an idea of the risks mostly women face by expressing discomfort at men calling themselves women or what to do when an obvious TIM is in a women and girls’ changeroom, not changing but watching the women and girls change. I have personally heard of two women’s lingerie shops in Brisbane that have regular TIM “customers” who try on and spoil the underwear. In both cases, the TIMs walk around in front of the female staff in women’s lingerie and they are terrified of being assaulted or sued if they object. Free speech around this issue is suppressed by Government policy, the tactics of the trans lobby (including online bullying and threatening to attack any venue that hosts a gender critical event) and the media and corporations being more interested in being an ACON “Australian Workplace Equality Index” Platinum Employer than looking objectively at an issue. The ABC alone (AWEI Gold Employer) has been smacked down for deviating from the pro-trans script on 2 notable occasions; on a 2022 Media Watch episode where host Paul Barry called on the ABC to review its relationship with ACON, and in its 2021 Mardi Gras coverage where the hosts had to apologise to the trans community for using the terms “ladies and gentlemen” and “same sex attracted”.

I have personally been given training in LGBTQIAP+ training as I’m doing a Cert IV in Mental Health and was categorically told that my definition of a lesbian as “a woman sexually and romantically attracted to other women” was outdated and not inclusive of trans and nonbinary identities. When I argued that definitions should be clear and may be exclusive, the same way the definition of vegan excludes meat eaters, I was told to update my thinking. They refused to engage with a biology-based definition of woman and man. If I am to be employed in any mental health organisation currently, I must use people’s preferred pronouns and undergo 4 LGBTQIAP+ training sessions a year. That’s not as bad as the situation in Norway where 2 women face jail time for saying men can’t be women and men can’t be lesbians respectively, but it’s a Self-ID country and what is stopping a Self-ID State like Queensland from following suit?

RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL DIFFERENCES IGNORED

I am an atheist feminist environmentalist who has, among other things, fought for the rights of women and girls as a sex. One thing I was passionate about was girls’ rights to adequate access and funding for sports. Now we see a situation where middle-aged TIMs like Roxy Tickle play field hockey against, and share changerooms with, young women. We see Hannah Mouncey, a former AFL Men’s player, allowed

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to play women's handball against women significantly shorter and less powerful than him, including the Iranian team who were not allowed to play against men and clearly viewed him as one. We see Sasha Jane Lowerson winning a WA women's longboard competition only a year after winning in the men's. Yet voices standing up for women's sport like Kath Deves and Senator Clare Chandler were demonised in the media as transphobic and, interestingly, homophobic. Besides fellow leftists and feminists, I have spoken to Muslims, Christians, Hindus, Jews and Sikhs. None have been in favour of Section 5 as all mandate some level of separation between the sexes. Many have been concerned about the safety of their daughters in State schools, sports, and hospitals and none said they had been consulted even when they knew their local member well. We have seen Muslim and Jewish women's voices silenced when Sydney's women-only bathing pools were first expanded to allow TIMs with a GRC and then anyone identifying as a woman. Unlike in Queensland they were consulted, but their voices were overruled by the trans lobby. It seems odd that religious voices have been so silenced when the idea of "incorrectly assigned at birth" "a woman (or man) is anyone who feels they are" and the trans lobby's division of the world into allies and enemies is much more religious than scientific.

THE TRANS LOBBY AND HOMOPHOBIA

Many well-meaning people see the fight against transphobia, and thus support for Self-ID, as an extension of other civil rights movements, especially the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual (LGB) movement. This is understandable but a mistake. LGB people want to be free from discrimination, the right to be safe from harm, and to have equality under the law. Most saw the 2017 update to the Marriage Act 1961 as the goal and withdrew from activism, after which the trans lobby stepped into the fray and the organisations to demand their rights. Unfortunately, this movement focused less on their rights than challenging and eroding the rights of others, mostly women and LGB people. They demanded access to women-only and gay men-only spaces including online support and dating spaces. This means lesbians, gay men and bisexuals can be banned from dating sites for stating a preference for a biological member of the same sex. Like women's services, there are no more exclusively gay or lesbian services in Queensland anymore and that isn't only because of biology but also liability. In December 2022, the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal ruled that women-only events are discriminatory towards men who say they are lesbians. LGB people have been extensively bullied online by trans lobbyists who call them transphobic for not being attracted to opposite sex genitalia.

They have also pushed for affirmation-only healthcare (accepting that anyone who says they're trans must be) which has been demonstrated, especially with youth, to push gender nonconforming people into a trans surgical path when most of them would have simply grown up to be gay. 11 studies collated over decades by James Cantor of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Toronto show an approximate 80% desistance rate, i.e that most young people presenting with gender dysphoria grow to accept their gender after puberty. Most of these desisters are LGB. Forcing young people uncomfortable around their gender and sexuality into a trans medical pathway – and these will mostly be young women who are approximately 75% of under-18s currently identifying as transgender – is a type of conversion therapy of LGB young people. Of all the gender clinics in Australia, the Lady Cilento in Brisbane has the most under-18s on its waitlist (611 in 2019 compared to 325 in Victoria and 297 in WA) and has had the highest increase in under-18s seeking treatment for gender dysphoria (48 in 2014 to 611). Bear in mind that this does not reflect the Australian part of the 4000% increase in young girls

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seeking treatment since COVID isolated so many from 2020 and the huge growth of trans TikTok, Reddit and YouTube.

THE LANGUAGE OF TRANS IDEOLOGY: WHO CAN SPEAK IT?

One offshoot of trans ideology has been to force changes to language such as biologically incorrect pronouns, neopronouns (it/itself, fae/fayre, bunny/bunself and hundreds more) and confusing self-terminology like demiboy, agender, theriangender, nonbinary transfem and more. The most egregious harms to language has been the erasure of women particularly with references to cervix havers, bodies with vaginas, chestfeeders, womb carriers and the omnipresent “cis” woman (meant to differentiate from trans woman or TIM). This is confusing for everyone but particularly for CALD people, older people and those who are cognitively impaired and that does not include the possibility of yearly changes to one’s gender. This could have disastrous impacts on Australia’s otherwise excellent record of health promotion using easy to access language. “People with cervixes” are already being urged to get Pap Smears. Those who struggle with English or expression may understand “women in their 20s” needing to do so but I doubt “cervix” is one of the first words one learns in English and there will be many women guessing that they are not that person. Since this language has been imposed by the trans lobby, will we see new immigrants, older people with dementia and people with learning disabilities penalised or taken to the Human Rights Tribunal for “misgendering” or “deadnaming”? This brave new world of language is already being disseminated through mandatory changes in workplaces. It is not natural or grassroots. I have a wonderful friend with a head injury who’s always happy to see me and vice versa. Even though we get along so well, it took her over a year to remember my name. I hope she doesn’t fall foul of the gender police.

DATA

I request that the Committee will be able to clarify the ability to find a criminal, security threat, or just someone whose children want to contact them if the Section 5 changes pass. In the US in 2014, TIM Donna Perry was charged with killing three women in 1990. After undergoing GRS in 2000 he was pulled over and detained numerous times by police for various crimes before being convicted of an unrelated crime in 2012. Police were looking for a Douglas Perry, his birth name, and did not take DNA. He is finally in prison for life – women's prison of course. But plenty of lesser criminals would surely take advantage of being able to change their gender marker once a year, for example visiting women’s refuges as a “woman” to track down a former partner. Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence Shannon Fentiman surely knows or has been advised how much time and effort violent men can take to find their ex-partners and children and that this would be a superb loophole. Also, having worked on a Census I know the value of collecting accurate data to ensure infrastructure is delivered to the right places. How would any Government plan healthcare delivery for “transmascs” and 50-year old men who identify as 6-year old girls?

Lastly, I must add that I have been involved in protests and disseminating public information about the ramifications of changing Section 5 since March 2021. Very few people I spoke to were at all aware of these changes, none had been consulted and 95% of the approximately 5000 people I spoke to (mostly in heartland State ALP seats) were thoroughly against the proposed changes. Some have already seen changes – men in women’s bathrooms and changing rooms, their children being categorically told at

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school that there are 70+ genders, lesbians being harassed by “transbians” with intact male parts for rejecting them. I have not been involved in attempting to meet Attorney-General, Minister for Justice and for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence Shannon Fentiman. Many of the women and men who had concerns about Section 5 did try to get a meeting or even a response to an email. Not one has succeeded in getting to meet Ms Fentiman and in fact Ms Fentiman blocked Queensland voter, resident, and feminist Sall Grover’s 2nd emails to her. After the first reading of the Bill, Fentiman tweeted a story solely promoting the convenience of Part 5 for a TIM and included no responses from biological women. Responses opposing her view received many more likes than her Tweet but that is apparently not enough to inspire her, her staff or anyone from the Queensland Labor Party to reach out and find out why people are upset. The so-called “consultation” on these changes to the people most affected by them has been nonexistent.

QUESTIONS AND REQUESTS FOR THE COMMITTEE

1. Please clarify “*lives or seeks to live as a person identified by that sex*” as the definition required by the statutory declaration.
2. What does Section 5 mean for the housing of male prisoners in female prisons? Will there be any situation (eg history of violence against women) that would keep a man or TIM in male prison?
3. Request that Department of Corrections release current numbers of TIMs in Queensland women’s prisons to all Queenslanders.
4. Request that the committee examine state and federal anti-discrimination with a view to allowing biological women-only and men-only spaces
5. Request that the Queensland government keep accurately sexed language like women and men without the cis prefix and in official materials.
6. Request that Queensland Health investigate the methodology of under-18 gender clinics in the state and commit to watchful waiting, not affirmation-only care.
7. Please clarify data safety and access to changes in official documents by law enforcement and government agencies.
8. We want Ms Fentiman to recant her statement that TIMs are no threat to biological women and to pause passing this bill until she has examined relevant data and consulted with women, LGB and religious groups and ALP voters/members

Thank you for accepting and reading this record of my dissent re QUEENSLAND BIRTHS DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION BILL 2022 Section 5.