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Committee Secretary
Legal Affairs and Safety Committee
Parliament House
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Re: The proposed Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022

The Proposed Births, Deaths & Marriages Legislation undermines and diminishes the credibility of the Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages.

A birth certificate is a foundation document which creates the legal identity of the new-born individual. At birth, the individual who enters the world is a product of the combination of DNA from its creators, more commonly referred to as parents. The child's physical and emotional characteristics, ethnicity and culture are passed down through this DNA. An individual's DNA is unique and unalterable and therefore forms the basis of the child's individual identity. Facilitating the creation of a document which denies the genetic truth of the child's origins, and instead focuses on the social and emotional needs of adults wanting to be identified as parents, sets the child up for identity confusion as they are forced to try and live as an identity created for them but which is at odds with their genetic reality.

This proposed legislation is an affront to all displaced peoples of Australia including but not limited to those of Stolen Generation, Adoption, Donor Conceived, Surrogacy and their descendents whose identities have been erased, altered or manipulated by other Acts of Parliament, to achieve genocide, trafficking or social engineering by falsifying birth records, altering the birth facts to align with another's whims or wishes.

Just months after the 10th Anniversary of the Queensland Government's Apology for Forced Adoption Policies and Practices, we have the Governor General, Shannon Fentiman, talking about aligning birth certificates of a child to the lived experience of the adult parenting that child, again falsifying facts.

The Government has a duty of care not to cause harm to those whom they serve and who will be affected by their policies.

However, it appears Shannon Fentiman has learnt nothing from history. As a previous Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, Shannon Fentiman knows of the harm caused by policies and legislation that alter the truth. Shannon Fentiman knows that people who are forced to live under a "Legal Fiction" suffer identity loss, have a much higher rate of suicide, mental health issues, depression, anxiety, PTSD, substance abuse, alcohol abuse, homelessness and incarceration than the general population. Yet she overlooks these facts, dispensing her duty of care to the people she serves.

It is the Attorney General's department that consistently invalidates adopted peoples' pursuit of identity. Pleas to live as the person identified on their truthful cancelled birth certificate are ignored along with their genetic testing evidence.

As adopted people living under the construct of an adoption order, with no regard for our vital medical histories or our cultural heritages, we feel we have a duty of care to protect future generations from yet another form of identity loss by Government Legislation. Dispensing with the truth will always have ramifications.

This proposed Bill should be rejected in its current form.

Due to the extreme nature of this proposed legislation we argue for more time and consultation to consider its wide ranging and lifelong ramifications.

Identified Issues:

1. Aligning Birth Certificates to the lived identity of social parents denies the genetic truth of the child at birth.
2. The presumed rights to be identified as a parent of a child should not trump the human and legal rights of a child to know their genetic identity.
3. Adopted people are the voice of lived experience. We have first hand knowledge of the issues which arise from lifelong identity loss.
4. The Register of Births, Deaths & Marriages should aspire, as any good record keepers should, to ensure their records are accurate and trustworthy documents. This proposed Bill makes a mockery of the authenticity of Births, Deaths & Marriages Records and calls into question their value as reliable public records keepers.
5. The proposed Bill acknowledges that the "Birth Certificate has deep social and emotional resonance for people", yet the proposed Bill denies the human rights of individuals to a factual identity.

Potential consequences of the proposed Bill in its current form:

- Unknown medical history
- Siblings unknown, creating potential for genetic sexual attraction (incest)
- Identity Dysphoria
- Suicide
- Genealogical Bewilderment
- Displacement
- Future costs of medical & psychosocial supports
- Loss to the economy due to loss of personal productivity & potential
- Cost impact on government services
- Potential future litigation
- Future Government Apologies and Redress

Adoptee Rights Australia Inc. welcomes the opportunity to participate in public hearings on the 24th January 2023.

Peter Capomolla Moore
President

On behalf of Adoptee Rights Australia Inc. Executive Committee

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