

To the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee,

I write to you to express my complete opposition to the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022 and request that you do not recommend it be passed by the House.

This Bill enshrines gender identity over biological reality and puts women and children at risk.

The government is responsible for accurate record keeping and this Bill allows people to formally change their biological sex based on subjective feelings, i.e. it disregards biological fact and opens the door to any subjective changes to a person's identifiers. This would not only create confusion for the general public, but also professionals who are expected to verify the identity of unknown individuals such as police officers, emergency department medical professionals and even hospitality staff who must review the veracity of people's identification before serving alcohol.

If one can identify as a different sex to their biological sex, essentially, they could identify as a different height or weight or even race, thus confounding the record and creating confusion. Furthermore, it requires no proof that the applicant is genuine in their intention to change sex, nor places any restrictions on how many times or how often one can change their identity, introducing the potential for fraud and criminal activity by those seeking to take advantage of the legislation.

Oftentimes people who identify as the opposite sex suffer gender dysphoria and allowing these people to legally change their sex without a medical or psychological assessment, or even any medical documentation, could be considered enabling a psychological condition, which would be considered reckless and negligent.

Furthermore, the Bill puts women at risk by opening female only spaces to biological men, such as restrooms, domestic violence facilities and prisons. In jurisdictions where similar laws are in effect, there have been numerous accounts of biological males using these laws to gain access to female only spaces and committing assault against women in those spaces, including sexual assault.

Biological males are stronger, have higher bone density and are oftentimes larger than biological females and thus these women are extremely vulnerable, not to mention most female only spaces are frequented by vulnerable females e.g. domestic violence facilities and are vulnerable places by nature e.g. restrooms and prisons.

Furthermore section 40 of the bill undermines parental consent and pits children against their parents and parents against one another by allowing children under 16 to change their registered sex with the permission of one parent only, or without any parental permission at all in certain circumstances. Again, this puts vulnerable children at risk and removes the ability of the parents to ensure their children are protected, especially if their child suffers from a history of childhood trauma, family dysfunction, sexual abuse, gender dysphoria and/or other mental health issues.

I support women's rights and the advocacy of Women's Forum Australia on this issue. I have signed their petition against this Bill and plead MPs to take a common sense approach and reject this Bill.