

## Submission

on the

## Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022

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by

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## 1. Terms of reference

On 2 December 2022 the Hon Shannon Fentiman MP, the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence introduced the *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022* into the Queensland Parliament. The Bill was referred to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee for detailed consideration and report by 24 February 2023.

FamilyVoice Australia is a national Christian advocacy group – promoting family, freedom, and faith values for the benefit of all Australians. Our vision is to see strong families at the heart of a healthy society: where marriage is honoured, human life is respected, families flourish, Australia’s Christian heritage is valued, and fundamental freedoms are enjoyed.

The closing date for written submissions is **12:00pm (midday) on Wednesday 11 January 2023**.

## 2. Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022

The *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022* seeks to normalise harmful and destructive gender ideology and should be opposed.

### 2.1. Can you change your sex?

The idea that a person can change their sex is nonsense, as has been pointed out by Professor Lord Robert Winston:

*I will say this categorically, that you cannot change your sex. Your sex actually is there in every single cell in the body.*

*We are very confused about this unfortunately and regrettably, it’s got into this argument that people will now accuse me of being transphobic.*

*Unfortunately you can’t say this publicly, this is one of the big problems. Even saying this on this programme undoubtedly will result in my getting a huge amount of hate mail, it always does.*

*It does affect a whole lot of issues in schools and elsewhere in our society. Of course we should accept people as they are.*

*Overall I think it’s a very sad thing that we can’t discuss biological science without actually getting completely caught up emotionally in something that is just really completely wrong.<sup>1</sup>*

Governments should not promote the lie that a person can change their sex when this is pure fantasy. Neither hormone treatment nor surgery can actually change a person’s sex. Australian resident Alan Finch, who decided at age 19 years to transition from male to female and had genital surgery in his 20s, later regretted this action which he described as “genital mutilation”. At age 36, he told *The Guardian* newspaper in 2004:

*transsexualism was invented by psychiatrists... You fundamentally can’t change sex ... the surgery doesn’t alter you genetically. It’s genital mutilation. My ‘vagina’ was just the bag of my scrotum. It’s like a pouch, like a kangaroo. What’s scary is you still feel like you have a penis when you’re sexually aroused. It’s like phantom limb syndrome. It’s all been a terrible*

*misadventure. I've never been a woman, just Alan ... the analogy I use about giving surgery to someone desperate to change sex is it's a bit like offering liposuction to an anorexic.<sup>2</sup>*

In 2021, Walt Heyer, a man who previously identified as a woman, told a FamilyVoice webinar:

*As a male biologically, I came to the conclusion that when the sperm hits the egg, that is the end of the game. Your gender sex is fixed and innate and unchangeable from the time the sperm hits the egg and here we are, a lot of people are trying to say that that doesn't happen, but biologically and scientifically speaking it's fixed and unchangeable from the point of that sperm hitting the egg.*

*So we're having a discussion about trying to change something that the sperm in the egg has set in motion scientifically, biologically and medically speaking.*

*People taking hormones like I did, or undergoing surgery, as a court document that I have on record, the surgeon who performed my surgery and one of the authors of the standards of care for transgender care, signed off on in superior court of California, acknowledge in that document to the court that you cannot change a male into a female no matter how much surgery no matter how much hormones.*

*The only thing that they acknowledged was that you can neuter, they use the word neuter, however your intermorphology never changes. And what we know today from research is that there are 6,500 unique genes that differ between male and female and in those genes are unchangeable just like when the sperm hit the egg, those things are fixed and unchangeable.<sup>3</sup>*

Given the reality that sex change is not possible, Queensland laws should not recognise a person's fake gender.

### **Recommendation 1**

***Given the reality that sex change is not possible, Queensland laws should not recognise a person's fake gender.***

## **2.2. Safety issues**

The promotion of extreme gender ideology places the safety of women and girls at risk, as a US example demonstrates:

*Fight for Schools executive director Ian Prior told Breitbart News the apparent sexual assault cover-up attempt in Loudoun County schools was implemented in order to protect a policy that allowed male students to use female restrooms.*

*After confronting the Loudoun County School Board for the first time since the release of a damning grand jury investigation and the unsealing of four indictments, Prior said that policy — Policy 8040 — was "100% the impetus for everything that we saw."*

*When a male student wearing a skirt raped a female student in the girls' restroom in May of 2021, the Loudoun school board was considering a policy on the treatment of "transgender" students that would allow them to use the restrooms and locker rooms of their opposite sex.*

*That male student would go on to violently sexually assault another student at a different school, and minimal disciplinary action was taken by the school district.*

*"They covered it up because they knew it would kill their policy," Prior, a Loudoun County resident and Senior Advisor at America First Legal, said. "They put politics, they put their agenda over school safety."*

*While the school district already allowed boys to use girls' restrooms in practice, it was not yet formalized into a policy. The practice already in place is what made it possible for the rapist to commit his crimes, and Prior told Breitbart News that the school board "knew that bathroom security was a focus."*

*"They knew that this was a problem, and that if there was another domino that it would kill this policy before it ever got passed," he said. "There was a school board meeting two weeks before the incident that got shut down. And let's not forget that Tanner Cross, just a few days before this incident happened, was suspended for speaking out against this policy, and it became national news."*

*Scott Smith, father of the first victim, also spoke to Breitbart News saying that the board protecting the "transgender" narrative was more important to them than the safety of his daughter.*

*Loudoun County officials chose to make Smith the face of the problem, sending a letter the day of his daughter's assault saying there was an incident with him trying to enter the school to find his daughter, but saying nothing of the rape that had occurred.*

*"It was obvious from the time they sent out the letter to the parents a day I showed up at the school, they didn't want it out," he said. "They didn't want anybody to know about it. You know, the kid was wearing a skirt. It went directly against the narrative of what they were trying to push."<sup>4</sup>*

Biological males should not be allowed in women's restrooms. Recognising a person's fake gender on their birth certificate gives an explicit government endorsement to gender-confused males to use female bathrooms.

### **2.3. The growing detransition movement**

An increasing number of detransitioners – people who have identified as and sought to live as the opposite sex but have come to accept their own biological sex – are highlighting the damaging nature of transgender ideology. Their stories are warnings to governments to not be complicit in normalising the harmful idea that gender is fluid or that children can be born in the "wrong body".

Keira Bell, a prominent detransitioner from the UK, has detailed her damaging experience as follows:

*I began seeing a psychologist through the National Health Service, or NHS. When I was 15—because I kept insisting that I wanted to be a boy—I was referred to the Gender Identity Development Service, at the Tavistock and Portman clinic in London. There, I was diagnosed with gender dysphoria, which is psychological distress because of a mismatch between your biological sex and your perceived gender identity.*

*By the time I got to the Tavistock, I was adamant that I needed to transition. It was the kind of brash assertion that's typical of teenagers. What was really going on was that I was a girl insecure in my body who had experienced parental abandonment, felt alienated from my peers, suffered from anxiety and depression, and struggled with my sexual orientation.*

*After a series of superficial conversations with social workers, I was put on puberty blockers at age 16. A year later, I was receiving testosterone shots. When 20, I had a double mastectomy. By then, I appeared to have a more masculine build, as well as a man's voice, a man's beard, and a man's name: Quincy, after Quincy Jones.*

*But the further my transition went, the more I realized that I wasn't a man, and never would be. We are told these days that when someone presents with gender dysphoria, this reflects a person's "real" or "true" self, that the desire to change genders is set. But this was not the case*

*for me. As I matured, I recognized that gender dysphoria was a symptom of my overall misery, not its cause.*

*Five years after beginning my medical transition to becoming male, I began the process of detransitioning. A lot of trans men talk about how you can't cry with a high dose of testosterone in your body, and this affected me too: I couldn't release my emotions. One of the first signs that I was becoming Keira again was that—thankfully, at last—I was able to cry. And I had a lot to cry about.*

*The consequences of what happened to me have been profound: possible infertility, loss of my breasts and inability to breastfeed, atrophied genitals, a permanently changed voice, facial hair. When I was seen at the Tavistock clinic, I had so many issues that it was comforting to think I really had only one that needed solving: I was a male in a female body. But it was the job of the professionals to consider all my co-morbidities, not just to affirm my naïve hope that everything could be solved with hormones and surgery.<sup>5</sup>*

Chloe Cole, based in the US, is another detransitioner who is speaking out against gender ideology:

*Chloe Cole is a self-described “former trans kid” who de-transitioned after undergoing years of puberty blockers and an irreversible double mastectomy at the age of 15.*

*Cole is now traveling across the country to share her story and raise the alarm about gender transition procedures on children, a growing trend she calls “child abuse” and “medical experimentation.”*

...

*Cole said Wednesday that her parents “were scared and desperate for answers” when she first told them she was a boy and that their decision to sign off on transitioning her was “forced under extreme duress.”*

*“The gender clinic presented my parents with the classic false dichotomy: Would you rather have a dead daughter or a living son?” Cole said.*

*Cole was put on puberty blockers and testosterone at just 13 years old, which caused a ripple of negative side effects including unbearable hot flashes and what she describes as an endless feeling of boredom.*

*“For me it was pretty bad, like they were making my whole body really itchy. There were certain days that I couldn't even wear sweaters or long pants in cold weather,” Cole told CNA.*

*“I felt like there was this feeling of boredom that just wouldn't go away. I would just wake up waiting for the next best thing,” she remembered.*

*Cole continues to experience joint pain from weakened bone density — a known side effect of puberty blockers — as well as certain allergies and ongoing urinary tract infection symptoms.*

*But all of this pales in comparison to the double mastectomy Cole underwent at age 15, which permanently removed both of her breasts.*

*“The name of the operation I went under was ‘double mastectomy with nipple grafts,’ meaning they make cuts under the breast and take out the tissue underneath,” she explained.*

*Cole added that the surgeons also surgically removed her nipples and grafted them back on in a “more masculine position” — creating serious side effects that she will deal with for the rest of her life.*

*“They severed the nerve endings. The sensation is never the same again and there are permanent changes in pigmentation — it might not ever look the same,” she explained.*

*Cole says she was given the impression from doctors that her grafts would mostly be healed by a year and a half after the surgery, but she still has complications more than two years later.*

*“The top layer of skin is not really healing over. It emits this fluid constantly so I have to wear non-adhesive bandages over them all the time.”*

*But what Cole most regrets is how “the beauty of motherhood” was stripped from her at an age when she wasn’t able to fully comprehend the loss.*

*“At 15, I wasn’t really thinking. I was a kid, just trying to fit in — not thinking about the possibility of becoming a parent.”*

Queensland should learn from the experience of these detransitioners and not encourage children to go down this destructive path. Affirming a child’s gender confusion is harmful, as Dr John Whitehall, Professor of Paediatrics and Child Health, explains:

*Social affirmation of a child or adolescent’s identification with the opposite sex is dangerous. It is likely to be the first step that progresses to hormone therapy and possible surgery, resulting in a lifetime of medical care.*

*Gender-confused children are also likely to be suffering from mental disorders, including autism, depression and anxiety. They will be especially vulnerable to the focused attention of authority figures. One leader in the management of childhood dysphoria declared to me that “the worst thing possible is for the child to become a poster-child for the school, with a cheer-leading mother.”*

*Given their vulnerability, it is not surprising that most children who have been socially affirmed as transgender then progress to the next step on the medical pathway. This usually involves giving hormones to “block” the development of puberty. The youngest child to receive puberty blockers in Australia was a biological boy age 10 ½, according to records of the Family Court.*

## **2.4. Recognising parents on birth certificates**

Birth certificates should protect the right of children to know their biological origins. Bioethics professor Margaret Somerville explains:

*Over the millennia of human history, the idea that children – at least those born into a marriage – had rights with respect to their biological parents was taken for granted and reflected in law and public policy. And children’s rights with respect to their biological origins was not an issue when there was no technoscience that could be used to manipulate or change those origins: a baby could only be conceived in vivo through sexual reproduction. But with NRTs that is no longer the case.*

*So, what are our obligations to children with respect to their biological origins and biological families? What protections do children need and deserve?*

*They describe powerful feelings of loss of identity through not knowing one or both biological parents... They ask, “How could anyone think they had the right to do this to me?”*

*I propose that the most fundamental human right of all is a child’s right to be born from natural biological origins and that children have human rights with respect to their biological parents and families and that these rights must be recognized. The articulation of human rights is an ongoing process. Children must move from being the “voiceless citizens” to becoming the new kids on the human rights block and nowhere is that more important than with respect to rights regarding their biological origins and biological families*

...

*Ethics, human rights, and international law – as well as considerations such as the health and well-being of adopted and donor-conceived children – all require that children have access to information regarding their biological parents. And it is not just these children who have this*

*right, but their future descendants as well. Children deprived of knowledge of their genetic identity – and their descendants – are harmed physically and psychologically.*

*Respect for children’s rights in these regards requires that the law should prohibit anonymous sperm and ova donation, establish a donor registry, and recognize children’s rights to know the identity of their biological parents and, thereby, their own biological identity.<sup>6</sup>*

As such, both the child’s mother and father should be required to be listed. As it is not biologically possible to have two mums or two dads, only one mother or one father should be listed.

### **Recommendation 2**

***Birth certificates should protect the right of children to know their origin by listing their biological mother and father.***

***As it is not biologically possible to have two mums or two dads, only one mother or one father should be listed as such.***

## **2.5. Threat to free speech**

The promotion of gender ideology is having an adverse impact upon free speech, as a Norwegian lesbian artist discovered:

*A Norwegian woman could spend up to three years in prison for saying that men are not able to be lesbians.*

*On November 17, Tonje Gjevjon was told that she was being investigated by the police over hate speech because of a Facebook post that criticized men who said they were lesbians.*

*Gjevjon is a lesbian artist who has faced intense pushback for standing up for women. In her post, she also criticized transgender activists who try to prosecute women who are against gender ideology.*

*“It’s just as impossible for men to become lesbian as it is for men to become pregnant,” Gjevjon wrote. “Men are men regardless of their sexual fetishes.”<sup>7</sup>*

Men cannot have babies, nor can they be lesbians, but that is what extreme gender ideology would have us believe. It is inevitable that the more governments promote the gender lie that you can change your sex, the more it must suppress those who speak the truth.

## **3. Conclusion**

The idea that a person can change their sex is a lie that should not be supported by government.

Birth certificates should be consistent with the reality of a person’s biological sex, not their made-up gender.

Likewise, a child has a right to know their biological mother and father who should both be listed on their birth certificate. As it is not possible to have two mums or two dads, only one mother or one father should be listed as such.

The *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022* seeks to normalise harmful and destructive gender ideology and should be opposed.



## 4. Endnotes

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<sup>1</sup> “Professor Winston: Stating biological fact will get you hate mail”, The Christian Institute, 22 October 2021, <https://www.christian.org.uk/news/professor-winston-stating-biological-fact-will-get-you-hate-mail/>

<sup>2</sup> David Batty, “Mistaken identity”, The Guardian (31 July 2004): <http://www.theguardian.com/society/2004/jul/31/health.socialcare>

<sup>3</sup> Walt Heyer, “Gender Politics: Transgenderism Webinar”, FamilyVoice, YouTube, 5 July 2021, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrvpsuEikl4>

<sup>4</sup> Breccan F. Theiss, “Breccan F. Theiss, "Exclusive — Fight for Schools’ Ian Prior: Transgender Bathroom Policy ‘100% the Impetus’ for Loudoun Rape Cover-Up”, Breitbart, 14 December 2022, <https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2022/12/14/exclusive-fight-schools-exec-dir-ian-prior-transgender-bathroom-policy-100-impetus-loudoun-rape-cover-up/>

<sup>5</sup> Keira Bell, “Keira Bell: My Story”, Persuasion, 7 April 2021, <https://www.persuasion.community/p/keira-bell-my-story>

<sup>6</sup> Margaret Somerville, "Brave new babies", 12 September 2008, [https://mercatornet.com/brave\\_new\\_babies/6992/](https://mercatornet.com/brave_new_babies/6992/)

<sup>7</sup> Charlotte Pence Bond, "Norwegian Lesbian Artist Being Investigated, Faces Criminal Charges For Saying Men Cannot Be Lesbians", Daily Wire, 14 December 2022, [https://www.dailywire.com/news/norwegian-lesbian-artist-being-investigated-faces-criminal-charges-for-saying-men-cannot-be-lesbians?utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=dwbrand](https://www.dailywire.com/news/norwegian-lesbian-artist-being-investigated-faces-criminal-charges-for-saying-men-cannot-be-lesbians?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=dwbrand)