

Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022

Submission No: 319
Submitted by: Graham Hill
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Submitter Comments:

I understand that under this proposed law a person will no longer be required to undergo sexual reassignment surgery to formally register a change of sex. This will allow men actually transitioning to women to self-identify into female-only arenas, and this will also allow men with ulterior motives to feign transitioning in order to gain unfettered access to female only activities, spaces, and services, including sports, prisons, bathrooms, and refuges. There is a history of sexual predators abusing such laws. I am deeply concerned on behalf of my wife, daughters, grand-daughters who currently enjoy a sense of safety in female only environments, this will be removed from them. There will be even greater concerns held by women who have suffered (violent) abuse at the hands of men, who actively seek the safety of female only facilities, shelters, etc. Many parents will hold similar concerns regarding the care and/or instruction of minors or accommodation sharing in Girl Guides for example. I do not suggest that transgendered women are more likely to be sexual predators than males in general, nor do I suggest that they are less likely, there will be transgendered sexual predators. It is also clear that this law gives a cloak of acceptability for devious men to feign transition to gain access previously unavailable to them. This bill elevates gender identity, which is a valid concern of a smaller percentage of the community, over women's and children's safety, which is a valid concern of a huge percentage of the community. I cannot see that it strikes the appropriate balance and I urge that it be withdrawn and redrafted with greater protections for vulnerable members of the community.