

Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022

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UQ Ally Action Committee submission to Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022 Inquiry

The objective of the UQ Ally Action Committee is to drive greater inclusion and celebration of diverse sexes, genders and sexual orientations at the University of Queensland and the communities it serves. As members with lived experience and close ties with the LGBTQIA+ community, we support the proposed Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022 and commend its objectives to reduce barriers to accessing legal recognition of one's gender identity and recognise a broader range of parenting structures.

Legal recognition of trans and gender diverse people

- We support the self-declaration model to alter the record of sex to legally recognise an individual's gender. The self-declaration model decouples medical transition from legal transition, supports social transition, and is important for the autonomy of the individual. Medical decisions should not be driven by legal requirements, and no aspect of medical transition should be a prerequisite for legal recognition of one's gender.
- We support the statutory declaration process, noting that any requirement involving medical personnel increases burden on both the individual seeking to alter their birth certificate and medical services. The statutory declaration by a person known to the person making the application is sufficient to ensure applications are made in good faith, without introducing additional burdens and likely increasing the financial costs.
- We support the legal recognition of non-binary genders. Enabling people to select a sex descriptor of their choice allows for legal recognition of non-binary genders in a way that best suits each individual and is not restricted to terminology of a certain temporal and cultural context.
- We support the 'opt in' approach to displaying sex information on a birth certificate.
- We recommend that a person who changes their name be able to receive a birth certificate without a notation of any previous names. A birth certificate without notations is necessary to allow a trans or gender diverse person to present the document without being forced to disclose their trans identity. A second certificate with notations or a letter from the registrar will enable the person to bridge their identities.

Recognising parenting and family structures

- We support the option for parents to select from "mother", "father", and "parent". This allows the birth certificate to better reflect each parent's familial role and recognises that the roles of mother/father/parent are not necessarily tied to being the birthing or non-birthing parent of a child. We recognise that the parental descriptor is deeply personal and of great value, and support every person being afforded the choice to select a term that appropriately describes their relationship to their child.
- We support the provision of a corrections process that allows parents to update parenting descriptors on birth certificates of their children that were registered prior to the reforms.

Anti-Discrimination Act amendments

- We support all amendments to the Anti-Discrimination Act.

We support these reforms because people of diverse gender, sex, and sexuality deserve equitable legal recognition of our lives and roles in society. The birth certificate is a fundamental piece of identification, and no one should be kept from using it because of concerns for their safety, because it is inaccurate, or because it does not affirm who they are. These reforms enable each individual to make decisions about how



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their identity document best reflects themselves, a decision that should not be constrained by medical requirements, financial pressures, or gender and sex roles that do not reflect their lived experience.

Sincerely,

UQ Ally Action Committee:

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