

## Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022

**Submission No:** 325

**Submitted by:**



**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name

**Submitter Comments:**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
11/1/2023

Regarding the *Inquiry into the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022* I make the following submission:

#### Lack of Consultation

The Bill has been inadequate in its consultation. There has been no genuine consultation with women and women's groups concerned about the impact of Self ID. In this way, the committee has discriminated against women and prioritised the feelings of people including men who have a gender identity, over the real risks to women.

#### Confusion of language

The Bill lacks clarity regarding language, in particular confusing "gender" with "sex".

"Sex" is a biological descriptor describing the role in sexual reproduction. All mammals have a sex, Sex is binary. Sex in mammals can not be changed. These are statements of fact.

"Gender" is a much less clear term. Sometimes synonymous with Sex but once it is decoupled from Sex it can only refer to a person's feelings in relation to gender stereotypes. None of which have any reason to be included in law or birth certificate.

The bill includes no definition of "gender".

It is unreasonable, and nonsensical, to include terms such as "agender", "non-binary" and "genderqueer" under sex" descriptors.

A birth certificate should include "sex" as a descriptor, and if necessary for the fair and safe operation of society, a separate category for "gender" or "gender identity".

#### Male Violence

Men are a risk to women.

There is NO evidence, nor any rational reason, that a male who identifies as a woman is at any reduced risk of being a perpetrator of sexual assault against women. To suggest this is the case is discriminatory.

Data from Qld prison in fact suggest that trans identifying males in prison are more likely to be sexual offenders than the average male prisoner: 1 in 2444 males in prison for agg sex assault; 1 in 167,998 females in prison for same; and 1 in 206 transwomen for same offence/charge.

#### Impacts to Women

Allowing men to identify as women as women has the potential to put women's safety and dignity at risk, and in many cases it is unfair.

Our society has introduced female segregated places because it is well recognised that:

- Women are at risk from men generally, and require safe spaces especially involving activities where women are vulnerable eg sleeping, or naked or in confined spaces.

- Our society discriminates against women, hence the separate inclusion of women specific awards, quotas
- Men are on average physically faster stronger and bigger than women and so have an advantage in sports

To allow males to identify as women denies the reality of the need for these sex-segregated spaces.

I am concerned that making it easier for men and boys to legally identify as women and girls will potentially result in the erosion of sex segregated spaces and that this puts women at risk. For example:

- A 16 year old boy may identify legally as a girl despite being fully physically mature male and be required by law to be housed with young girls in school dormitories or school camp tents; or use girls change rooms, many of which are open plan. In these situations a girl is at increased risk from being sexually assaulted or harassed from that girl-identifying-boy.
- A male who identifies as a women may now legally be housed in a women's prison, regardless of whether their crime included sexual violence. Women are vulnerable in prison. Many have already experienced sexual violence and have a genuine and valid fear of men. There is a high chance that such a male will inflict violence on the women with whom he is housed. But even if he doesn't, the women will continue to live in fear.
- A male who identifies as a female will be a better sports person and take spots in teams from women, or win against women. This is unfair. And when it comes to contact sports, is very very unsafe.
- A male can win an award for women, that was set up to recognise the experience of sex based oppression,

### Questions

How many schoolgirls being sexually assaulted is worth satisfying the whims and feelings of a few gender diverse individuals? I suggest ONE is too many

How many women with brain damage from fighting a males in a female boxing tournament do we condone?

When is it acceptable for a male to win an award for best female author?

Under the United Nations "Nelson Mandela Rule" for prisons, females are required to be separated from men in prison, because of the known risks. Allowing men to self-identify as women, is incompatible with this UN standard.

This bills in theory allows a team full of men to play (and no doubt win) a Women's national hockey tournament. Where is this safeguarding against this potential eventuality?

The Labor party has quotas for women in political representation. How many males accessing that benefit will we tolerate before we recognise the inherent unfairness of gender ID replacing sex?

### Alternative Methods

The bill indicates that there are no alternative ways to achieving policy objectives. I suggest that reconsidering the policy objectives may be an option. One of the policy objectives should be to reduce sex based violence, or at least ensure that any policy does not potentially result in an increase.

One alternative method could be to not allow legal documentation to support the biological fiction of sex change and instead look for alternative ways to recognise and celebrate the diversity of humanity in Qld.

#### About Me

I am a member of the Queensland Greens and a strong supporter of fairness, equity and safety for all. I am an advocate for gay rights and encourage the breaking down of gender stereotypes in our culture. I am very concerned about the unintended impacts of Self ID on women.