

Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022

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Honourable House of Representatives, I write to you to express my support and utmost gratitude that this bill is being proposed with the potential to be passed. Births, Deaths and Marriages, whilst for the cis majority is something not often thought about, this small form of documentation defines us all. For trans and gender diverse people, it is our greatest source of pain, anxiety and avoidance. As a trans woman myself, both from my own experience and from the many trans and gender diverse people I have had the good fortune of meeting, will often speak about the barriers to accessing certain services, navigating all aspects of the public sphere, housing and employment, as being tremendously challenging already as trans and gender diverse people. Currently, we are not recognised as ourselves by law, even if we have been out, whether having started our social, medical transition, even when we are known and seen by wider society as ourselves, legally, we still aren't supported, nor protected against discrimination from what is a key identification document that defines us. Currently here in Queensland, in order for our gender to be recognised (This only applying to trans women and trans men, not allowing for non-binary and gender diverse recognition at all) One must undergo specifically Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS) This is a surgery that is gender affirming and essential for many trans people who experience immense gender dysphoria, a condition recognised in the DSM-5. However, this surgery is one that not all trans people need/want, and even those who do need it, either can't afford it or medically can't undergo it. Trans and gender diverse people, are already living their lives as best they can, but this gatekeeping of gender recognition leads only to discrimination in employment, housing, accessing of all kinds of essential services. This leads to severe mental and emotional distress, which can lead to depression and even suicide. Trans youth are already struggling with bullying and discrimination, trans adults are struggling with finding employment and have to deal with ignorance and hate crimes from the wider population. This much needed change to allow trans and gender diverse people to have their gender and name changed with Births, Deaths and Marriages through Self identification will reduce discrimination in employment, housing and essential services indefinitely. As a transgender woman whom has been medically transitioning for 3 years, socially has been a productive member of society via working in Retail Food Operations at QLD Health, this law change will help me when I must apply for gender recognition in the UK where I was born. This update in requirements will save the lives of many trans and gender diverse people. It's time for birth certificate reform. Yours sincerely, Idin Aazami (She/Her)