

**Submission on the QUEENSLAND BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION
REGULATION BILL 2022**

I am a parent of a beautiful, artistic, sensitive and quirky child, who is autistic, intelligent, socially awkward and highly anxious - and who has been encouraged to identify the pain experienced by this awkwardness and anxiety as gender confusion.

I am a registered health professional of 30 years involved in the paediatric and mental health sector.

I am also part of a rapidly growing group of concerned parents watching our children experience significant mental health distress due to numerous compounding factors. WE watch them being failed by our health care system, which is - in my personal experience and professional opinion – causing harm.

I am writing to you, the committee charged with investigating the gender self-ID legislation in QLD, to express my support for the submission made to you by **Katherine Anderson-Karena** on behalf of **Watchful Waiting Inc**

This bill will make it possible for 12 - 16 year olds to 'change their sex' on a legal document. At an age they are not able to get a tattoo.

Katherine provided you with information about medicalisation, loss of parents rights, schools working behind parents backs, children being removed from 'non-affirming parents', the social contagion, the regret of young people making unalterable decisions before they were ready – and being supported to do that by adults and professionals.

May I ask you – would you be happy for this to happen to you and your child? If your child was distressed, had black and white thinking due to autism, ADHD or trauma, and was supported by social media influence and other adults/professionals to start down a track that leads to lifelong medicalisation and unalterable harm to their body? Without your knowledge or consent? Without appropriate assessment and intervention for pre-existing issues. This is my experience

This bill, as it stands, will encourage young people to solidify what might be otherwise just a passing phase. Supporting a false belief that they can 'change their sex'. Supporting, ironically, the social pressure of conforming to binary sex stereotypes.

I ask you, as part of this committee, to stand up as adults and leaders who have been charged to make decisions on behalf of the people of Qld and Australia – please protect all our children. Those who need to find mental health support outside the typical expression of their sex, and those who are – increasingly - being harmed by a failure to address the real cause of their experience of distress. Our most fundamental responsibility is to protect our children.

No bill should ever increase harm to children. I believe this bill has the real potential to do just that.

Yours sincerely

