




Speech By  
**Peter Russo**  
**MEMBER FOR TOOHEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 May 2018

### **BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (5.56 pm): I rise in the House to speak in support of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment Bill 2018. This bill was referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for its consideration. The committee tabled its report on 23 April 2018 which recommended that the bill be passed. I commend the committee's report to the House. I will also be recommending that members of this House vote in favour of this legislation.

I take this opportunity on behalf of the committee to thank those individuals and organisations who made written submissions on the bill, those who briefed the committee and those who appeared at the committee's public hearing. I would also like to thank our committee secretariat and Hansard as well as the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

The bill amends section 22 of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003 to allow the reassignment of a married person's sex to be noted on the register of births or the adopted children register. Currently, a married person would need to divorce their spouse to have the reassignment of their sex noted in those registers. The bill fixes this anomaly.

All submissions to the committee expressed support for the bill. Rainbow Rights Watch described the effect of the current section 22. They stated—

The Section 22 divorce requirement puts many gender diverse Queenslanders in a difficult position of being required to choose between legal recognition of their marriage, and legal recognition of their sex or gender.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Member for Toohey, can you please move that the debate be now adjourned.

Debate, on motion of Mr Russo, adjourned.