



Speech By  
**Amy MacMahon**


**MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2022

**MOTION**

**Women in Sport**

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (5.14 pm): Instead of talking about health care, housing or climate action, we have seen the LNP and now the Katters drag trans people's basic rights through the dirt. As Claire Garton, our candidate for Moreton, said in April—

Using transphobic tactics to win over voters is just pathetic. I can't express how much the continuous rhetoric and dog whistling over trans rights by both big right-wing parties fills me with dread. This isn't a hypothetical for our community. Real people in my community continue to die because of this shit. Instead we should be debating how we include gender affirming surgery—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. I ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language.

**Dr MacMAHON:** I withdraw. The quote continues—

Instead we should be debating—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, I also warn you under the standing orders.

**Dr MacMAHON:** The quote continues—

Instead we should be debating how we include gender affirming surgery into Medicare and how we lift marginalised LGBTQIA+ folk out of poverty. Both the Liberals and Labor continue belittling trans children and women as a conservative rallying call to arms against progressive changes in society.

This kind of gross discrimination is what we have come to expect from parties that have run out of ideas. Sports is for everyone. If we want to be a country that includes everyone, then everyone should be able to participate in sport including trans and gender diverse people.

I have been a consistent critic of the Olympics as a big waste of money and a track record of draining cities' budgets and displacing people, but one bright spark would be a Brisbane committed to being the most trans inclusive games in history, welcoming trans athletes with open arms. If we are really serious about supporting women's sports, let's pay women's sportspeople the same as men, show women's sports on free-to-air TV and news coverage and start programs to encourage women and girls to take up sports.

The Greens will always stand up for trans people. We have committed to investing \$15 million to allow trans and gender diverse people to access gender-affirming health care that can be lifesaving. Just as we have seen that abortion is now legal but still very difficult to access, vital surgeries like orchiectomies, which are vital procedures that allow transwomen to go off intensive hormone therapy to transition, are still unavailable to people. It is funded by Medicare but many Queensland hospitals simply refuse to provide it. Trans advocates have been urging the health minister to fix this and I will be following up with her on that.

The Greens have also been pushing for changes to the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act. Queensland is lagging behind other states in the way in which gender is noted on birth certificates. My colleague Michael Berkman tabled a petition organised by Esther Vale, an amazing campaigner whom we are lucky to know. The government committed to reforms to the BDMR Act last year, but we have yet to see a draft or any movement on this.

I want to spend the rest of my speech talking about the amazing trans people whom we are privileged to know, the amazing trans and non-binary people who are part of our movement in the Greens. I want to spend my remaining time reiterating how loved, appreciated and needed you are.

To the trans youth who swell our numbers at rallies for climate action, for renters rights and for land rights, your energy, knowledge and strength are crucial to our movement. To the trans campaigners who have been on the front lines of fighting the Religious Discrimination Bill, thank you. I will be joining you at the protest on Saturday to stand up to the LNP's transphobia. To the trans kids and adults who are yet to come out, we wish you the strength, the support and the love you need to live your life in the richest and most fulfilling way you can. To the trans athletes getting up early to train or to spend your weekends on the hockey pitches, in the pools or on the sports fields, we wish you the best of luck. To the trans artists, writers, thinkers, coders and musicians, we need your creativity and your work out there in the world. To the trans kids who are doing their NAPLAN tests today at school, I am so bloody sorry that you have to do NAPLAN, but I know that you will do amazingly well.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Resume your seat. I am just going to take some advice. Member, you are already on a warning. I am going to ask you to withdraw that statement and if there is any further intentional or unintentional swearing in the House I will cease the speech and ask you to leave the chamber.

**Dr MacMAHON:** I withdraw. To the trans kids doing their NAPLAN test today, I am so sorry that you have to do NAPLAN but I know that you are going to do amazingly well. To the trans organisers and volunteers out there on pre-poll booths in the rain today, we could not do without you pushing our movement forward. To the trans candidates like Claire Garton putting their hand up to represent their communities, politics needs you so badly and we are so proud of you. We recommit today to the fight against transphobia and transmisogyny, the fight for justice and the fight for a world where everyone gets to live their best lives and be their best selves. To be clear, this motion today is not about women; it is about stoking up transmisogyny for cheap political tricks and we are not going to allow it. There are many people in this chamber today who are saying to trans people out there we love you, we need you, we will fight for you.