




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

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BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION BILL

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.26 pm): I rise to support the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill, landmark legislation based on respect and recognition for diverse Queenslanders. With the changes in this bill, trans and gender-diverse Queenslanders will be able to update their gender on their birth certificate without the need for surgery. Instead of having to repeatedly out themselves when applying for work or education or to access services, they will be able to access birth certificate and other ID documents that align with their gender. That simple change will create less risk of discrimination in the everyday scenarios that cis people take for granted. The bill also ensures that birth certificates better recognise the many kinds of families in Queensland and allows parents to describe their relationship to their child on legal documents in ways that are true to that family.

I call on all members to support the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill as an opportunity to make a real and positive impact on the lives of so many Queenslanders, especially young Queenslanders. Ultimately, inclusivity is not an abstract concept; it has real impacts, and our actions in this House have real impacts. Young Queenslanders are watching us. They are watching this debate to see if their members of parliament respect them or if they make up excuses and objections or invoke hateful stereotypes like we heard from the member for Maroochydore.

Most of us were young once, perhaps with the exception of the member for Callide. I am sure that many of us remember the terrible things that routinely happened to young people who were different: the abuse, the beatings, the shunning. Where I grew up young people who did not conform had no choice but to hide their truth or to leave.

Community members have had a lot to say about this bill and overwhelmingly I have found that they have been supportive, especially young people. Their only question is why it did not happen sooner. However, I understand that in some of our communities, especially for some older people, the cultural shifts we have seen around gender in recent decades have been challenging. I do accept and hear that. I want to say to those people, though, that the Queensland we live in now is a better, kinder place than the Queensland of the past and that our children and their children are better off for that kindness. What I absolutely cannot accept, though, is people who seek to characterise their hatred of trans people and their discomfort with gender diversity as somehow standing up for women.

Women continue to face a lot of risks to their safety. We face a significant lifetime risk of assault, sexual assault and DV. What the evidence shows supremely clearly, though, is that it is not trans people who assault and harm us as women. If you are actively fostering intolerance towards trans people, you are not protecting female spaces and identities; you are being hateful. Of all the significant issues that women face, you are preoccupied by a threat that is not even in the top one thousand.

I wish that we had seen some courage from LNP members, even in quiet support, for this bill. Instead we have seen and heard pettifogging, process objections and the LNP's shambolic shamefaced refusal to support these important reforms. We have heard disgraceful contributions from the member for Everton, the member for Maroochydore and others. What the LNP fails to recognise every single

time these matters come up for debate is that Queenslanders are the experts in their own lives and identities. Who are we in this place to stand in their way? No wonder so many young people reject the LNP in increasing numbers. Young people want governments to get their barriers to their happiness and their mental health out of the way of themselves and their peers—not try to find excuses for maintaining a harmful status quo.

This bill is a step towards building a more inclusive Queensland that embraces the diversity of its citizens and that cares about addressing the barriers that they face. Change like this does not come without courage and conviction. I thank everyone who campaigned for these reforms over such a long period of time, particularly members of Rainbow Labor. I commend the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill to the House.