




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

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BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION BILL

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (4.57 pm): I too rise to address the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022. In doing so, like others I want to be quite respectful in my contribution. I appreciate that just about everyone in this chamber has tried to do that regardless of the views that they want to express. I also acknowledge that those who have contacted my office, either for or against this legislation, have largely done so with a high level of respect for those who have a differing point of view. This is a challenging matter. I acknowledge that people listening to this debate and the discussions around this issue may find the points being made challenging and I want to minimise or not cause any harm. I do want to say that it is not appropriate for anyone to vilify or discriminate against anyone for any reason. That also goes for us as members of parliament.

On that note, I must take umbrage with the words used by the member for Algester when she suggested that anyone who disagrees with any element of this bill is from the divisive far right. What is clearly demonstrated through the contribution of the member for Algester is that she did not take one moment to consider the committee's report into this legislation. What the member for Algester would have seen is that on a number of matters a range of stakeholders from across what would be considered a political spectrum have concerns with this legislation.

I will restrict my contribution to the two parts that many on this side have already expressed concern with. The first is part 2, births. The bill proposes to facilitate the registration of multiple combinations of parental descriptors to better reflect contemporary family structures. These descriptors include any combination of mother, father and parent, for example, mother/father, mother/mother, mother/parent, father/father, father/parent or parent/parent. The bill limits the number of parents who may be registered to not more than two people.

To go back to the point I was making about the fact that this is not just the divisive far right as the member for Algester suggested, the Coalition of Activist Lesbians Inc commented that only biologically female people can give birth to human babies. I am pretty sure the Coalition of Activist Lesbians Inc would not want to be considered as divisive far-right stakeholders. If we then turn to part 5 of the bill, which brings in a new framework for the acknowledgement of sex—

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (6.10 pm), continuing: I appreciate this debate is about to be guillotined, but I wish to add to it. Before the break I was saying that the member for Algester suggested that everyone who was opposing elements of this was divisive and far right. I was mentioning that many were not. I want to mention that Louise from Mooloolah Valley, Maree from Glass House Mountains and Roslyn from Ocean View in my electorate who contacted me would be quite offended at that. I would encourage members to listen to the speeches made by the members for Clayfield and Ninderry, who gave more detail. I accept that I am now going to be asked to sit down.