




Speech By  
**Christopher Whiting**

**MEMBER FOR BANCROFT**

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

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.51 pm): I proudly stand to support the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022 before us today. There are many things that I could say about what this bill can deliver, but I will start by talking about the contributions that I have been listening to from the members opposite. Why are they so obsessed with how women are defined? Why do they want to constantly control how a woman is defined? Why does feminine identity pose such a threat to the LNP? And why does the LNP want to be the arbiter of gender? As the member for Macalister says, I think this says more about them than it says about anything else.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr KELLY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Before I deal with your point of order, member for Greenslopes, member for Nanango, any further outbursts like that and I will warn you under the standing orders. The same goes for all members of the House. Member for Greenslopes, what is your point of order?

**Mr KELLY:** I found some of the commentary from the member for Kawana to be unparliamentary and I would ask that that be withdrawn.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will take some advice and I will take it in silence. There is no point of order.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I do not need your assistance, member for Nanango.

**Mr WHITING:** We can see the LNP struggling to say relevant things in this debate. We see so many pauses. We are seeing many searching for the words to say. We hear so many bad arguments from the other side. I say to them: if you cannot make a decent argument, why not accept that you are wrong? I say to those opposite: you are in an ideological cul-de-sac.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member on his feet is constantly referring to the term 'you' and I ask you to draw the member back to the debate where we should be addressed appropriately.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Bancroft will put his comments through the chair.

**Mr WHITING:** I say to the LNP that they are in an ideological cul-de-sac. I say to them they cannot go forward. I say to them: reverse out of there—get out of there; you have nowhere left to go in this debate. Once again the LNP is dealing with absolutism—that is a man, that is a woman and never shall these definitions cross or alter—but we know that such absolutism does not last when someone you love, someone from your family or your friendship circle, cannot fit neatly into those definitions. Boxes

are broken and we need to accommodate that. That is true love. I say to those people in this chamber that their hard and fast positions will change when they do have to accommodate the people that they love.

I have heard members opposite today obsess over issues such as medical intervention for young people. I say to those members stop focusing on this as a problem. I say to them trust people to have the agency to make their own decisions. The best that they can do is just give them unconditional love. That is all that they have to do.

**Ms Pease:** Open your hearts!

**Mr WHITING:** I take the interjection from the member for Lytton: open your hearts. Finally, I want to say thank you to someone in the gallery today, someone who from the age of 12 has been making their own decisions about their own path and their own identity in life. I am talking about Caden Neate. I have spoken of Caden in this place before. Caden is an example to all of us of personal courage and conviction. Since an early age—and I have known him since he was four years old—I have seen him take control of his own life and his own identity. I have seen him speak out, speak up—even as a student in high school—to defend the path he is on and defend the choices he has made. I say to Caden: your strength and determination are an inspiration for all who know you. I commend this bill to the House.