




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION BILL

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (4.08 pm): I rise to support the bill before the House. As a very proud parent of a non-binary adult child, I say that identity is very important. Identity means everything to many members of the LGBTIQ+ community. Being able to, if you do not identify as cisgender, stipulate who you believe you are, your place in this world and what that means to you is what this bill is all about.

It does not matter what others think. It is what the individual thinks that this bill is trying to protect. It does not matter what I think or what anybody else thinks. It is about what members of the LGBTIQ+ community believe they are. If they believe that that is their standing in this world, then they should be able to make their mark like everybody else in a respectful and proper way.

My adult child will be the beneficiary of this legislation and I applaud it every step of the way. I do not give a damn what others in the community think. If that is what makes them happy, if that fulfils their identity, if that is what they require in this world to walk proudly, to be part of a great Pride movement, then I support it 100 per cent.

We are the last jurisdiction in Australia to bring this in. In terms of all these concerns that have been raised, none have been evident in the other states. Why all of a sudden is Queensland going to be facing all these concerns that are being raised when there is proof in every other state—even Tasmania—that this is not happening?

Honourable members: Ha, ha!

Ms GRACE: I say that because I am married to a Tasmanian, and it has a conservative government that supports this. If every other state and territory can live with this and find no concerns, why are there so many being raised in this House at the moment?

There are safeguards in this legislation. I commend the current Attorney-General and the previous attorney-general for using the evidence that currently exists around the country. We always take the best in Queensland because we have the best LGBTIQ+ community there is. Mind you, they are pretty good in the other states as well.

As a proud parent of a non-binary adult child, I say it is a journey that they are on. As a very proud parent, I am very happy to walk along that journey with them. If the journey includes being identified in the manner in which they want to be identified—and this bill is going to give them that opportunity—then that is the only thing that matters. It does not matter what others think. It does not matter what concerns or made-up issues are raised. If people are comfortable in themselves and they have the strength of who they are—if they identify as cisgender, good luck to them; I do not feel threatened by anyone who does not. I do not feel threatened by anyone who claims to have another identity than the cisgender given when they were born. They have a right, the way I do, to have an identity in the manner in which they see fit and that does not affect anybody else.

It is not an easy journey. It has not been an easy journey for my adult child, either. I believe Michael and I were put on this earth for the sole reason of supporting my wonderful 'Bear'. We could not be more lucky than to have adopted a child who is my adult child. I often say sometimes we believe in God; sometimes we do not. However, I say there was a God up there when they placed that wonderful human being in the care of Michael and me. If this legislation gives them more comfort, if this legislation provides the identity that they need, then, as a very proud parent and a supporter of the wonderful LGBTIQ+ community, I wholeheartedly commend this bill to the House. I do that for no other reason than it gives those who need that identity the chance to have it. Well done, Attorney-General. I commend the bill to the House.