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Committee Secretary
Legal Affairs and Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Committee Secretary

Thank you for providing the Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) with the opportunity to provide a submission on the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill (The Bill) 2022.

The QFCC supports the proposed improvements to strengthen the legal recognition of trans and gender-diverse people, including new processes that enable young people to change their record of sex.

In December 2022, QFCC Youth Advocates held a roundtable discussion where non-binary and transgender Youth Advocates shared their experience of discrimination and associated mental health impacts resulting from institutions and individuals perpetuating rigid, traditional stereotypes of gender and sex. A 19-year-old Youth Advocate shared:

"I identify as non-binary, but while that isn't in of itself a mental disorder (not that I like the term 'mental disorder' anyways), the anxiety, resulting from years of not having my gender affirmed by my peers, is a mental disorder."

"I have only recently started identifying as non-binary. There was a lot of struggle with wanting to identify as non-binary, like that I still felt too connected to my gender assigned at birth, or that identifying as non-binary was just attention seeking or was 'just a phase'."

"In my earlier school years, I was surrounded by people who thought they knew my gender identity better than me. I was bullied for not having a very feminine appearance, called by male pronouns at least half of the time and told that I should just shave my body hair to fit in with the other girls. It may not seem like the bullying was 'that bad', but it made me feel like it was my fault I was being misgendered when really, I was just following what felt comfortable to me. It was a big factor that contributed to my social anxiety, and it made me feel very unseen for who I really was. I felt like a ghost."

Based on the above perspectives and our engagement with Queensland young people, we agree that the Bill will remove a discriminatory regime and help reduce the distress, fear, discrimination and privacy violations that many people in our community face on an all-too-frequent basis.



The Bill also includes better recognition of same-sex parents, and repeals an exemption in the Anti-Discrimination Act that allows unlawful discrimination in the area of working with children. These measures recognise that a child's importance, value and safety can exist in all family types, and that there is no evidence connecting a person's gender to their ability to keep children safe.

Yours sincerely



Luke Twyford

CEO and Principal Commissioner
Queensland Family and Child Commission

10 January 2023

