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From: Michael Bartlett <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, 9 August 2019 1:56 PM
To: SARC
Subject: Submission on the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment Bill 2019

Hello, please treat this as a submission on the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment Bill 2019:

While I applaud this government's rightful support of the LGBTIQ+ community, I am concerned by the apparent lack of safeguards being put in place around the proposed legislation around changing legal sex on birth certificates. Although sex and gender are often disingenuously conflated (I absolutely believe people deserve to be recognised as the gender they identify as), there is a very real need to preserve sex-based protections for women and girls. Women are oppressed on the basis of their biology as much, if not more so, than their gender. I think it's great the LGBTIQ+ community has been consulted on this issue, but would hope women beyond that community have been consulted on how any changes might affect their rights and protections.

I am also concerned that recording, for example, male-bodied women as women will make it increasingly difficult to gather the data required to ensure women have access to the support and services they need. Again, I applaud your support for one of our most marginalised communities, and hope to hear that you are working to ensure sex-based protections for women will not be compromised in the process.