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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 10 August 2019 1:23 AM
To: SARC
Subject: Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment (BDMRA) Bill 2019

Dear Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee,

I hope that you will be able to accept this email as my submission in regard to the upcoming discussion on the [Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment \(BDMRA\) Bill 2019](#) at your next meeting on August 12th, 2019.

I know there have been other submissions regarding this matter that have more clearly & eloquently outlined the concerns of many people that the BDMRA Bill 2019 trespasses on the rights of (biological) females. I share those concerns that this bill conflicts with the single-sex protections outlined in the Equal Opportunity Act, but I'm adding my personal submission because this is of great importance to me, and thinking about the ramifications, causes me as a woman, not by "identity" but by sex, and as a Mother to 2 daughters, great distress.

As a layperson, I don't see any logical way that the protections to not discriminate against females can coexist if the meaning of "woman" is changed to include biological males irrespective of any medical interventions or not, to also be classed within the law, as females.

I submit that this bill needs to re-consider the real world ramifications to the lives of biological women & girls. What happens to the legal right to body autonomy & privacy in female only spaces? How are those responsible for children supposed to empower children to understand about personal physical boundaries, to explain that it's inappropriate for those of the opposite biological sex, irrespective of "gender identity," to expose themselves? For example, at school swimming, when the children all go into the relevant single sex change room, or when biological sex has crucial relevance including to transgender persons, in particular in emergency situations, if information in regard to biological sex is not easily accessible to relevant medical personnel?

Most people would consider that a Birth Certificate is simply a document that identifies who we are, in relation to parentage, where we were born, and our biological sex, not how we personally, as adults "identify" in relation to how we feel, see or present ourselves as a particular gender. Our "identity" isn't noted at birth, because it's not pre-determined; birth certificates have never reflected "who we truly are" (paraphrased from quote by Minister for Equality Martin Foley), as a person.

I ask then, are we also to believe that the purpose & meaning of what a Birth Certificate is for, to record the birth of a baby, is being removed from the law?

Ultimately, it is unreasonable to put the needs of a minority who are unwilling to acknowledge their birth sex as something different to a *gender identity*, above the needs of biological women that are 50-51% of the population. It is unfair, unjust, to turn the meaning of a legal document and its purpose on its head to provide an avenue for validation for a *feeling*, or *belief* of gender, which would usurp the needs and rights of biological females, as determined by our sex, regardless of how we see ourselves, to single sex spaces for privacy, safety, dignity, comfort & fairness. I know, with certainty that the mental health of women & girls will be compromised when these needs and rights will no longer be protected within the law. It's unnecessary to compromise the rights of biological females, to ensure that those who identify as something other than what they were born are not discriminated against.

Yours sincerely,

Cathy Trew

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