

14 March 2018

Our ref NDC

Committee Secretary
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

By email: lasc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary

Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment Bill 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment Bill 2018. The Queensland Law Society appreciates being consulted on this important legislation.

This response has been compiled with the assistance of the Family Law Committee who have substantial expertise in this area.

The Queensland Law Society (**QLS**) is the peak professional body for the State's legal practitioners. We represent and promote nearly 12,000 legal professionals, increase community understanding of the law, help protect the rights of individuals and advise the community about the many benefits solicitors can provide. QLS also assists the public by advising government on improvements to laws affecting Queenslanders and working to improve their access to the law.

QLS supports the policy objectives of the Bill to remove the restriction currently in section 22 of the *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003*, which requires a married person to divorce before sex reassignment may be noted on the register of births or the adopted children register.

Importantly, the amendments proposed by the Bill are consistent with recent changes to the *Marriage Act 1961* (Cth) which removes references to gender from the definition of marriage.

QLS welcomes the introduction of the Bill.

Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment Bill 2018

If you have any queries regarding the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact our Senior Policy Solicitor, Natalie De Campo by phone on (07) 3842 5889 or by email to N.DeCampo@qls.com.au.

Yours faithfully



Ken Taylor
President