



Honourable Yvette D'Ath MP  
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice  
Leader of the House

In reply please quote: 572305/3; 4630131

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Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to e-Petition No. 2992-18 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 12 February 2019, requesting the House not support additional categories of sex on Queensland birth certificates.

The Palaszczuk Government is strongly committed to ensuring our laws support the rights and dignity of sex and gender diverse Queenslanders.

The Government is currently reviewing the *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003* (BDMR Act) to ensure that registration services in Queensland remain relevant and responsive to community needs and expectations. In March 2018, public consultation on the review commenced with the release of a discussion paper examining how the legislation can improve legal recognition of sex and gender diverse people.

The discussion paper sought feedback on whether to:

- change the requirements for recording the change of a person's sex, noting the current process requires a person to undergo sex reassignment surgery;
- enable a person's sex to be recorded as something other than male or female, given some people are not born with exclusively male or female sex characteristics and some people do not identify their gender as male or female; and
- enable same-sex parents to choose how they are recorded on their child's birth registration, noting that currently only one parent may be registered as the father or mother of a child.

There were a significant number of responses on the discussion paper that captured a range of views. The views of the petitioners have been captured in the feedback process.

The Government has now released two more discussion papers for public consultation. These papers examine:

- the functions and powers of the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages (the Registrar) and the disclosure and use of information, including whether the Registrar should be able to share a broader range of information with a broader range of entities, and the charges that should apply for such services (Discussion Paper 2); and

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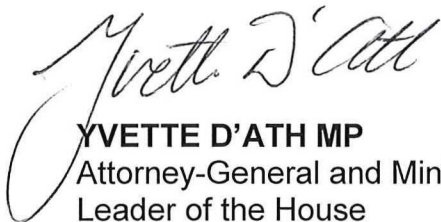
- the registration of life events, including examining: barriers to registration; whether there should be any further limits placed on the number of name changes a person can have; and whether legislative changes should be made to support the expansion of the Registry's electronic lodgement services (Discussion Paper 3).

Discussion papers by their nature are enablers of discussion and debate, and the Palaszczuk Government welcomes feedback from all Queenslanders in this review.

At the end of public consultation on all three discussion papers, the Government will carefully consider all feedback prior to making a decision on any potential changes. Please note that any potential legislative amendments will be further considered by a Queensland Parliamentary committee which will provide a further opportunity for public consultation.

I thank the petitioners for engaging on issues raised in the review.

Yours sincerely



**YVETTE D'ATH MP**  
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice  
Leader of the House