



**MICHAEL BERKMAN MP**

*Member for Maiwar* ▲

5 March 2024

The Hon Yvette D'Ath  
Attorney-General  
1 William Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000  
By email: [attorney@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:attorney@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

### **Commencement of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2023**

Dear Minister D'Ath,

I am writing to request an update on the commencement of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2023. This bill represented landmark legislation for the LGBTQI+ community, and particularly for trans people to be able to keep their official documents up to date and consistent with their lived identity, without requiring costly surgery.

I was pleased to support the passage of the bill following a long campaign led by trans and gender diverse people, including one of my constituents and the creator of the "Recognise LGBT+ people within the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act" petition tabled in 2021, Esther Vale.

However, I understand that the Act has not yet commenced as it's awaiting proclamation by the Governor. These reforms were already well overdue when the bill was passed last year, and I have heard from stakeholders and constituents that they are concerned about the long delay, which affects many people's ability to plan for significant life events such as an official change of name to affirm their gender. Given the LNP opposed the bill, I also share community concerns that the reforms could never actually be implemented if there is a change of government following the October State election.

Could you please advise when the Government expects a proclamation to be made in respect of this bill and when the reforms will commence? If there is any reason for the reforms to be delayed, especially beyond October 2024, could please advise the reasons for this?

I urge you to ensure these important reforms are finalised and certainty provided for the LGBTQI+ community as soon as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact my office on 07 3737 4100 if you would like to discuss this matter in more detail.

Kind regards,

Michael Berkman MP

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#### **Contact Us**

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