

Dear Sir /Madam,

RE:- HARMONIZATION OF FEDERAL /STATE & TERRITORIES SEX & DISCRIMINATION SENATE REVIEW COMMITTEE

My year old wife and I am post operative Trans-woman of years of age refuse to divorce because the NSW Births Deaths and Marriages Department require us to do so if I am to have the 'SEX' changed on my birth certificate!

We were married in the

and under Federal Marriage Law are not required to divorce unless either of us choose to do so.

Under Federal Legislation we are not required to divorce just because after a lifetime battle with Transexualism including shock treatment, male hormone therapy, I finally underwent gender harmonization surgery in Melbourne four years ago for health reasons. I would not have undertaken such radical action without the full support of

This was a last resort and I am now a balanced woman. Ours is not a sexual lesbian relationship (as thought by the bigoted uneducated) but is one of unconditional love and mutual respect for each other.

How can the Federal Government Legislation be overturned on Marriage and Divorce by The State and Territory Births Deaths and Marriages Departments requiring us to divorce just to change 'SEX' on my Birth Certificate?

We rely on one another as we did as a heterosexual married couple and our financial and legal affairs are as they were before my operation! We cannot live separately or divorced and why should we?

The Courts of Human Rights in the EU ruled that a number of countries in its jurisdiction who had the requirement of Divorce before an individual who had gender harmonization surgery could have their sex changed on their birth certificate were guilty of gross human rights violation and ordered them to remove the harsh legislation from their statutes. Trans-sexualism is certainly not a choice as such a condition is both torturous and cruel to those that have it. It can occur at any time at any age from the young to mature citizens of Australia. Those affected with the condition fight to conform to the two sex types from childhood to adulthood only to fall victim to bashing and bullying at school because they are 'Different' leading to early self harm and worse ..suicide! In adults those that try to retain their maleness / femininity ,marry to try and conform to the expected norm ,become so depressed and disillusioned when the pressures of their condition overwhelm them they and they self harm or suicide. There is little or no understanding by legislators and because they think Trans-sexualism is in the minority it will go away!!! They ignore the fact that most adult Trans-sexuals have work in many responsible professions , paid their taxes the same as everyone else and suffer because of Religious Dogma and prejudice towards them by those who are ignorant and discriminatory towards others who are different.

We are not asking anything that is not our due and not enjoyed by all heterosexual Australians like equality in WORD and LAW.

The current Senate Enquiry on Sex and Discrimination is supposed to recommend a better 'Harmonised' simple Legislation Nationally for ALL AUSTRALIAN on this subject yet enquiries by a number of Australia's Trans community to make submission to the Enquiry Committee have been denied due the narrow premise that all Australians fall into the two binary male and female group . This appears to be based on the biased and exclusionary report compiled by an Advisory Committee consisting of members who are under of the Catholic Church dictums which do not accept that there are any person who was born Divers Gender not of the two binary types does not exist and should be ignored!

Marriage is a Holy Institution blessed by God and even in the Federal Marriage Act those married as Hetro-sexuals yet one partner in the marriage has in later life undergone Sex Alignment Surgery they are not required to Divorce ,yet State and Territory BDM Legislation requires the transsexual to DIVORCE before they can change their Sex on their Birth Certificate are both discriminatory and

cruel ! This impacts on a number of couples in Australia who have invested forty or more years in a marriage to abandon their partner which adversely impacts financially , support and health wise on both parties!!, not to mention the impact on their families and community. It also impacts on the right of a transsexual married person to gain an Australian Passport in their new sex!

If the couple accept the condition as just that and choose to remain together married then why should they be penalised? MARRIED TRANSEXUALS ARE NOT LESBIANS OR GAYS but a married couple who have faced and accepted this condition and choose to remain married.

It is high time Church and Government got out of their citizens bedrooms and tackled the difficult job of governing this Great Australia for the good of ALL AUSTRALIANS rather than the current Orwellian ANIMAL FARM approach at present applied to Gender Diverse citizens.

WE ARE HUMAN BEINGS AND PEOPLE FIRST! Many of us do voluntary work in the community, just as hetro-sexual couples do and Communities /Governments accept that service yet ignore those who provide it!

Please broaden the Senate Committee's scope of reference to encompass ALL AUSTRALIANS as now is the time for Equality in WORD AND LAW for on this Subject otherwise 'Harmonization' is just a word without achieving Equality for all and reinforced Discrimination towards Transsexuals retaining the Status Quo!

Thank you

You Sincerely