BDMR Act Review

PO Box 15188

CITY EAST QLD 4002

23 April, 2018

# **Re: Review of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003 (Qld) – Discussion paper 3: Registering life events—Registration and access**

Queenslanders with Disability Network (QDN) welcomes the opportunity to make a brief submission to the Review of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003 (Qld) – Discussion paper 3: Registering life events—Registration and access).

QDN is an organisation of, for, and with people with disability with 2000 members and supporters. QDN operates a state-wide network of members who provide information, feedback and views from the lived experience of people with disability to inform systemic policy feedback to Government and peak bodies. QDN also provides information and referral support to people with disability.

QDN’s membership base is reflective of the diversity of the Queensland community and includes people from the LGBTQI+ community. QDN supports the recording of gender being optional on birth certificates. QDN also supports the option to change the gender and name recorded on a birth certificate in a circumstance where a child or adult identifies as a different gender. Information required to change gender on a birth certificate should not be onerous on the individual and the process should incur no additional charge.

QDN also supports the changing of the name of a child or adult on a birth certificate for the purposes of protecting the identity of a person in relation to Domestic and Family Violence or witness protection.

QDN supports the waiving of fees or late charges in relation to registering a birth. Parents should be required to give informed consent to a hospital or other agency registering the birth of a child on their behalf.

QDN supports the updating of legislation to be inclusive of these proposed changes. QDN believes these changes are reflective of a contemporary, vibrant and inclusive Queensland community.

If you have any further questions regarding this submission, please call QDN on 1300 363 783.

Yours sincerely

Paige Armstrong

Chief Executive Officer