

Broadsheet, New Zealand's Feminist Magazine

1 Do you have any comments on the proposal that applicants must live in their acquired gender for at least 3 months before applying for a GRC?

Yes

If yes, please outline these comments.:

Keep the current system in place. Reject the new proposals.

Yes, a person should live in the desired new gender for at least two years.

The NHS says diagnosis of gender dysphoria requires an in-depth assessment that is carried out by two or more specialists. This takes longer than 3 months to complete thoroughly. While speeding up the process of obtaining a legal sex change, the proposed reforms would remove all forms of gate-keeping that have been designed to prevent abuse of a system that was originally intended to help a very small number of people with a rare medical condition. Self-declaration of sex is not a principle that should be embedded in law and the Bill should be rejected in full.

2 Do you have any comments on the proposal that applicants must go through a period of reflection for at least 3 months before obtaining a GRC?

Yes

If yes, please outline these comments.:

Applicants should be required to live as their desired sex for at least two years and to prove they have done this.

3 Should the minimum age at which a person can apply for legal gender recognition be reduced from 18 to 16?

No

If you wish, please give reasons for your view.:

Increasingly we are told that people still in their teens have brains which are not sufficiently developed to make certain life-changing decisions. That being the case, the age at which anyone can apply for legal recognition should be raised to at least 21. This will give them time to work out the kinds of teen angst which seems to be responsible for much of the "gender dysphoria" we are seeing nowadays.

4 Do you have any other comments on the provisions of the draft Bill?

Yes

If yes, please outline these comments.:

Please drop these proposals and keep the status quo. This is a wrong-headed response to a lobby group which has its own goals but which does not have the interests of the small group of dysphoric individuals at heart. Thank you.

5 Do you have any comments on the draft Impact Assessments?

Yes

If yes, please outline these comments.:

It is imperative that the impact of this reform proposal on women's single-sex rights are considered and that those rights are protected in full.