## brisbane times

POLITICS QUEENSLAND SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

## change in Queensland 'Unjust and unfair' marriage laws to

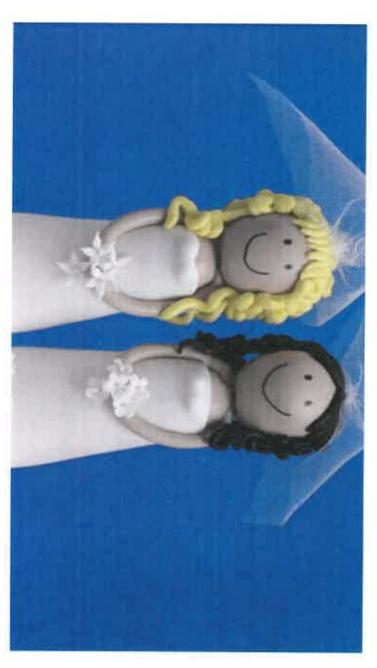
By Felicity Caldwell

March 6, 2018 — 10.27pm



Queensland laws will be changed so people who change their gender do not have to divorce their

their gender legally recognised. Section 22 of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act currently means that any Queenslander who has undergone sex reassignment surgery has to divorce their partner to have



their gender The Queensland government will introduce legislation so transgender people do not need to divorce to change

Same-sex marriage was legalised in Australia in December, with couples getting married from January.

But Queenslanders could not change their gender on their birth certificate if they were already married.

The ban is a hangover from when same-sex marriage was illegal.

from changing their gender. subsection of the Sex Discrimination Act, which allowed states to ban married transgender people However, when the Australian Parliament passed same-sex marriage legislation, it also repealed a

the laws, and state-based legislation must be passed to change them by December 9, 2018 Most states and territories - except for South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory - have

transgender people will be able to make a complaint about discrimination. After then, it will be illegal to refuse to change a person's gender based on marriage and

said the current arrangement had caused significant anguish for many gender-diverse Queensland Attorney-General Yvette D'Ath plans to introduce the legislation on Wednesday, and Queenslanders.

identity," she said. distressing decision of choosing between their marriage and the legal recognition of their gender "It has been unjust and unfair that some members of our community have been forced to face the

laws capture the true fabric of all Queensland families "The overwhelming 'Yes' vote to marriage equality has given us an opportunity to make sure our

laws are truly reflective." "I'll have more announcements in the near future about how we, as a community, can ensure our

The LGBTI Legal Service has provided advice to transgender clients who were caught up in the legal technicality.

had to first seek a divorce. The service previously had to advise clients who wanted to officially change their gender that they

journey towards marriage equality. LGBTI Legal Service president Matilda Alexander said the change demonstrated the continued

"Our clients are faced with an impossible choice between embracing their true gender identity by divorcing their supportive partner or continuing to live under the oppression of an official gender that does not match their identity but keeping their marriage," she said.

announcement will bring marriage equality to transgender people in Queensland as well." "Last year, gay and lesbian Australians fought and won the right to equal love and today's



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