

LGBTQIA+ INCLUSION

Statement

HON DR BRAD PETTITT (South Metropolitan) [6.24 pm]: Two weeks ago, I stood in this place and spoke of my frustration of the WA Labor government's inaction on law reform on LGBTQIA+ rights. I shared three stories from the community that I hope members remember. They are waiting for the government to follow through on its promise to abolish the Gender Reassignment Board of Western Australia and protect LGBTQIA+ rights. I again stand and remind the government and Labor MPs in this place that the party made an election commitment in 2017. I know that the LGBTQIA+ community is still waiting for that to come to fruition.

An announcement was made of a new inclusion strategy, but I am hearing universally that that is not enough. What is needed is the law reform that was promised, and we need that reform to be delivered before the March 2025 election. The outdated legislation continues to affect real people's lives, whether it is harmful conversion practices that seek to change a person's sexual orientation and gender identity, which remains legal; the process of trans and gender-diverse people to legally update their gender, which remains the worst in this country; or intersex babies and children who continue to be subject to deferrable medical interventions without their personal consent.

Today, I want to share another story—just one. This is Michelle's story. I flag up-front that it has content that some might find confronting, but it is an issue that we must confront. This is Michelle's story —

My name is Michelle, I am a 56 yr. old woman with innate variations of sex characteristics also known as intersex, I was born and live in WA and I'm the President of Intersex Peer Support Australia. 1.7% of the population are born with natural variations of sex characteristics, we have existed since the beginning of humanity and today we still fight for our existence.

When I was born Doctor's didn't know what box to tick on my birth certificate and many lab tests later, they decided to tick Female, but that wasn't enough for them, I had to look female. At the tender age of 4, I had surgery on my genitals without my personal informed consent. This surgery was harmful, it caused irreversible loss of sexual function, the inability to ever orgasm, it caused trauma, shame, permanent scarring, and PTSD.

What was the purpose of surgery? It was so I would fit into a binary box because to be different was just not acceptable to doctors or to society, nor is it today.

Clinicians at Perth Childrens Hospital are still performing human rights violations on babies, and young children as we speak. Labor thinks that cutting a little child's genitals at a young age (often before 2 yr.'s old), removing reproductive organs that produce hormones, performing vaginoplasties, clitoral reductions and many other harmful procedures on babies is ok.

Would it be okay if your clitoris was cut off because it was too big, or your penis was turned into a vagina because it was too small?

The ACT government doesn't think it's ok, it's now a criminal offence to do so, Victoria will have legislation by the end of the year, so why —

Does Labor still —

think it's ok?

That was Michelle's story. I thank her for allowing me to share her story in this place. I have many other stories to tell. I want to tell these on a regular basis because we need to understand that by not following through on this election promise that real people's lives are continuing to be affected. I really hope this government follows through on its promise to bring LGBTQIA+ reform to this Parliament.