

# ABS on a gender bender

Bureau accused of adopting 'radical gender theory' in sex identity wars

CLARISSA BYE

AUSTRALIA'S national statisticians have been blasted for adopting "radical gender theory" by stating in new guidelines that a person's biological sex can change over a lifetime.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has also been criticised for not consulting with biologists before changing the way it defines men and women during surveys.

In a new policy guiding how



Senator Claire Chandler.

it records data for men and women, the ABS argues a person's sex – not just gender

identity – can differ from their sex recorded at birth.

"A person's sex can change over the course of their lifetime and may differ from their sex recorded at birth," the new standards say.

But Liberal Senator Claire Chandler said that flies in the face of biology.

"It's absurd to have the nation's collector of official data openly stating that humans can change sex over the course of their lifetime.

This is just further evidence that the adoption of radical gender theory is endemic in the public service," she said.

The ABS revealed it did not speak to biologists, rather it created a working party of sociology academics, the Human Rights Commission, fellow government bureaucrats, Pride in NSW, ACON and the ACT LGBTIQ government office.

Women's Forum chief executive Rachael Wong said: "The ABS's statement that 'a

person's sex can change over the course of their lifetime' is simply incorrect."

Feminist Legal Clinic principal solicitor Anna Kerr asked "what source did ABS rely upon in determining that it is possible to change sex chromosomes over one's lifetime?"

Coalition for Biological Reality spokeswoman Stassja Frei said that while humans can "undergo hormone therapy and cosmetic surgeries to mimic the opposite sex ... bio-

logical sex is immutable." An ABS spokesman said the guidelines were updated to "align with established, contemporary definitions" and that "a person's sex may differ from that recorded at birth for a variety of reasons".

"Sex may be legally changed in Australian and other countries' identity documents ... this would include changes as a result of medical procedures such as gender confirmation surgery," he said.



## NAT'S ALL FOLKS! THOR STAR AND FAMILY JET OUT

KARLIE RUTHERFORD

SYDNEY'S Hollywood A-list exchange program has continued despite the lockdown with actor Natalie Portman and her family quietly leaving on Thursday.

The Academy Award-winner and her husband, director Benjamin Millepied, were seen packing up their Vaucluse rental home and heading to the airport, before

departing on a private jet with their two children, Aleph, 9, and four-year-old Amalia.

It comes after the actor and executive producer pulled out of her latest movie, ironically titled *Days of Abandonment*, a day before cameras were set to roll at Fox Studios in July.

"Due to unforeseen personal reasons, Natalie Portman has stepped down from HBO Films' *Days of Abandonment* prior to the

start of filming," a statement from HBO in the US read.

While rumours swirled that the family would leave Australia straight away, they remained in Sydney while Millepied finished post-production on his film *Carmen*. After its completion this week, the family departed and is rumoured to be heading to Europe.

Portman, 40, has been based in Sydney since last

September, having shot Marvel film *Thor: Love and Thunder* alongside Chris Hemsworth and a Dior commercial in Potts Point. She then turned her attention to *Days of Abandonment*.

The family also spent time with fellow A-listers Isla Fisher and Sacha Baron Cohen.



Natalie Portman (above) and Benjamin Millepied and their children (main) board a jet with local souvenirs (inset). Pictures: Media-mode.com, Matrix Pictures

## KIM'S PRAISE FOR KANYE

THEY'RE still finalising their high-profile divorce but it seems there is no bad blood between Kim Kardashian and Kanye West.

The *Keeping Up With the Kardashians* star praised West for teaching her how to stay "true to herself" during their six-year marriage.

In a new interview, Kardashian, 40, said the rapper helped her "live in the moment" and not care about other people's opinions.

"Being in a relationship with Kanye for a decade – and someone that absolutely didn't care about likability factor or what anyone's perception of him was, as long as he was true to himself – that taught me so much in the best way, of just being me and living in the moment," Kardashian told Kristen Bell podcast, *We Are Supported By*.

"You don't have to please everyone as long as I'm myself."



Kim and Kanye

## Australia strikes new weapons deal

HELENA BURKE

AUSTRALIA has announced a new partnership with the US to develop precision strike missile technology capable of hitting targets at ranges of more than 400km in an effort to bolster Australia's military capabilities.

In a recent memorandum of understanding between the Australian and US militaries, the two countries pledged to increase the lethality, range and target

engagement of the missile under development.

This strategic move comes as Scott Morrison publicly declared Australia's unwavering dedication to the US as a military and political ally. "In Australia, the US has no stronger partner today in defending the values and its institutional pillars of what was created by a remarkable generation of American leaders," the PM told the Australian American Leadership Dialogue on Wednesday.

The US Army's Defence Exports and Co-operation deputy assistant secretary Elizabeth Wilson echoed Mr Morrison's sentiments, stating the new missile agreement "complements the US presence in the Indo-Pacific Command area of responsibility".

But China has hit back at the strategic move, claiming the US's increasing closeness to its allies in the Pacific region demonstrates the nation's "anxiety" about China's growing power.

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