

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Cc: [Simon Tinkler](#)
Subject: Relationships (Civil Partnerships) and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2015
Date: Saturday, 26 September 2015 4:22:09 PM

Dear Sir / Madam,

You will receive submissions from people who are opposed to the LGBT community and do all that is in their power to stop LGBT people receiving any expansion of their rights or positive treatment.

While I understand such people have a right to share their points of view, I ask those reading such submissions to remember that they are looking at submissions from another group of people without being in any way directly influenced by the outcome of this bill.

I, however, am a person who is directly influenced by this Bill and I ask that this submission be treated with a high degree of seriousness.

In fact I regard this Bill and submission the most important political issue in my life.

In 2012, my partner of now 7 years Timo Bohlender and I were elated when the Anna Bligh ALP government of the time brought in Civil Partnerships. We knew that this represented our relationship and summed up the spirit of our love and strong commitment to each other. We went into the city and registered for Civil Partnership and were so excited to receive our form. Our friends and family were thrilled for us and sent congratulations from all over the world.

It was our intention to have a civil ceremony to celebrate this special step in our lives but we needed time to achieve this as we had family in Malaysia, Germany and the United Kingdom so could not organise the event quickly.

Words do not begin to describe the pain and deep level of hurt we experienced when Campbell Newman striped our Civil Partnership from us in such a way that our Civil Partnership became void and our ceremony was no longer able to take place. Our friends and family can vouch for the fact that we felt so alienated and rejected by the decision of the government and the swift and heartless way it was brought into being. We were going to make plans to leave this state or even to leave the country altogether.

It must be put on record for the history books that the Queensland LNP government saw the only case I am aware of in Australian history where a human right was deliberately and callously reversed.

Our love has continued and flourished since that time in 2012 and we shared with many Queensland a great sense of joy when the good people of this state moved en masse to see the LNP government removed from office. When I heard the new Premier promising to investigate re-instating Civil Partnerships we were both overjoyed. Here was a government seeking to govern for all people and to see people treated with respect, dignity and kindness.

We hear now Springborg and his team seeking to block this initiative so that our Civil Partnership never returns. He claims that Civil Partnerships "mimic" marriage and that this is some kind of evil back door attempt to see gay people get marriage rights. At the same time he claims that this issue is not important and that issues such as economic growth should see priority. Civil Partnerships are not the same as marriages and although we support marriage equality as a completely different issue, we see Civil Partnerships allowing a modern and secular way in which committed couples like ourselves can celebrate our love for each other. The claim that economic growth should take priority is simply a way of insulting the LGBT community and to say our fair treatment is not important.

A good government should have the maturity to understand that it works with multiple goals: to foster economic growth while ensuring the quality of life of people including minorities. Government is not business and the bottom line is not the single measurement of good governance.

I sincerely ask that the present government right the wrong that has been done to bring healing to the hurt and

rejection that LGBT people have experienced under the previous government. I ask that couples like us have our Civil Partnerships re-instated with the facility for a ciivil ceremony where it is requested.

In our case, I also ask that provision be made for people like us who never had the chance for a ceremony to have this chance.

I am not sure if we will live to see it but one day I prophesy a formal apology will be made to people like us for the evils of the previous government and I pray for a better new day under the new government.

Yours faithfully

Simon Tinkler
South Brisbane.