

# The Society of Notaries of Queensland Inc.

Don Seawright  
Hon. Secretary

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Telephone ██████████

30<sup>th</sup> September, 2015

The Research Director,  
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane, Qld. 4000.

## Re: Civil Partnerships Bill

Dear Director,

My Society has now had the opportunity to consider the Relationships (Civil Partnerships) and other Acts Amendment Bill 2015 recently introduced into Parliament.

The Society represents some 140 plus members who carry out notarial functions essential to the transaction of international business and, as well, certifying the correctness of documentation used to secure overseas employment. We are recognised by the Commonwealth Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and co-operate with that department in producing documentation on which overseas governments and companies can rely.

We are widely known and accepted by the public in providing these services and are known by those who use our services as **Notaries** or **Notaries Public**. The office of Notary Public is ancient and honourable and has existed in Queensland for over one hundred years. Notaries Public in Queensland are required to be qualified legal practitioners having at least 10 years experience. Notaries exist in nearly every country in the world and their duties relate to commercial and business matters rather than relationship issues.



Member of  
the Queensland  
Society of  
Notaries

E-mail: ██████████

Web Site: <http://www.societyofnotaries-qld.org>

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED].

Telephone [REDACTED]

We note that the Bill recently introduced provides throughout the Bill for certain actions related to the registration of civil partnerships to be performed before **civil partnership notaries**, and there is provision for the registration of such entities in Part 3 of the Bill.

**To refer to these registrants as civil partnership notaries will without doubt raise confusion in the minds of the public as to what a notary is and what services a notary can perform and my Society foresees considerable and effort being expended in explaining the difference to members of the public.**

My Society therefore earnestly requests that another name be found for the persons who will be called upon to exercise services which may lead to the registration of civil partnerships under the Bill.

One of my members has suggested **civil partnership celebrants** but the government may accept another name such as celebrants, officers, monitors, advisers or simply vest Justices of the Peace or marriage celebrants with the necessary powers.

The Society asks that the Government amend the name that will be given to these registrants so that no confusion will exist in the minds of those wishing to use the provisions of the Bill after enactment.

Yours faithfully,

E-mail: [REDACTED]

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