

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

Email: [lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Research Director

**Inquiry into the Relationships (Civil Partnerships) and Other Acts  
Amendment Bill 2015**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Committee's inquiry into the Relationships (Civil Partnerships) and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2015.

I make this submission in my capacity as a straight female citizen concerned about

- the negative social and psychological impact of continued discrimination against an estimated 10% of Queensland voters, largely on grounds of sexual orientation
- the precedent set by the removal by the previous government of a legal right from citizens of this state

I support the reinstatement of

- a state-sanctioned ceremony prior to registration of a civil partnership
- registration of 'civil partnerships', rather than 'registered relationships'.

For the following reasons

- When the right to a legally registered civil partnership, including a state-sanctioned ceremony, was removed in 2012, a dangerous precedent was created, that is the government of the day can propose and pass measures to remove rights from a group of Queensland citizens
- Removal of this right was based on nothing more than personal beliefs held by individuals.
- The "evidence" presented in favour of the removal lacked rigour, indeed, arguments in favour/justification for the repeal revolved entirely around historical precedent, religious belief, and the claim that access to a 'marriage-like ceremony' would diminish the marriages of heterosexual couples.
- The fact that civil partnerships were also available to heterosexual couples was virtually ignored at the time, This sent a powerful homophobic message.
- As a female, and therefore a member of a section of the population which relatively recently in human history attained a modicum of legal equality, it concerns me that allowing the precedent created by the removal of the right to a civil partnership, including a ceremony, to remain, opens the way for removal of civil rights from other groups
- It also concerns me that removal of the right to a civil partnership achieved precisely nothing. No heterosexual marriage was weakened by the availability of a state-sanctioned ceremony and no heterosexual marriage was strengthened by the removal of that right.

- Reinstating the right to a legally registered civil partnership, including a state-sanctioned ceremony, would provide assurance to those whose legal equality has been granted as a result of legislation that their rights are secure.
- Reinstating the right to a legally registered civil partnership, including a state-sanctioned ceremony, will send a powerful signal to Queenslanders that every citizen will be treated with respect and dignity by this government, regardless of gender, who they love, and who they wish to commit to.

In addition, I urge the Committee to recommend that same-sex marriages solemnised overseas, and civil unions entered into overseas or interstate, should automatically be recognised as Queensland Civil Partnerships.

Yours sincerely



Jennifer Cram



Date: 10 October 2015