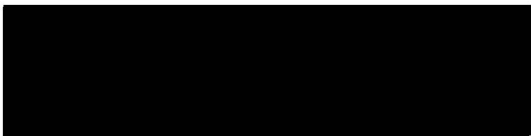


Attention: Chair, Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

My name is Kathleen Kirkwood and I am a Mother and Mother-in-Law of a Gay son and Son-in-Law. I cried my heart out when Matt our son 'came out', not from a homophobic standpoint but I was worried for his future, I didn't want his life to be any harder than it had to be, nor for him to be discriminated against in any way. It was not a moment I was proud of as it took weeks for the tears to dry, but time goes on and our family has been truly blessed by welcoming Matt's husband Victor into our family. There is nothing unusual about their love story, they met online as Victor told me 'Kath, how else were we to meet if we don't got to bar's and we both work so hard we like being home on Saturday night'. The only thing unusual about their story was that when they wanted their union to be legalised, we had to celebrate their Civil Union in New Zealand. *This broke their hearts and mine as my elderly Father was unable to attend as well as many other family members and friends due to the cost involved.*

My son is a hard working, tax paying citizen equal in every way to his sibilings yet he isn't allowed to legalise his relationship here in Queensland. Please bring back the opportunity for gay couples to celebrate Civil Partnerships, it would be an important end to discrimination against the gay and lesbian community.

I thank you for taking the time to read our story.



Kathleen Kirkwood

