

**Michael Burge & Richard Moon**



**Research Director**  
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee  
Queensland Parliament  
George Street, Brisbane, Qld 4000

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

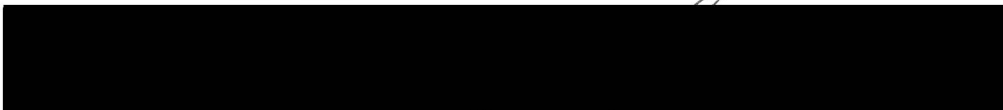
Dear Committee Members,

We are Queensland residents living in a committed, long-term Civil Partnership solemnised under New Zealand law. We support the return of Civil Partnerships for Queenslanders (including same-sex attracted people), complete with a state-sanctioned ceremony, and the return to the use of the term "civil partnership" (as opposed to the current "relationship registration") for the following reasons:-

- Queensland is a secular political state and it's high time it had a secular form of solemnising relationships between any two consenting adults.
- The return to the term "Civil Partnership" sends a strong cultural message, which for same-sex attracted people upholds the equality of our relationships.
- The term also underpins the ability for the relationship to be instantly recognised with one document in times of crisis for one or both of the parties.
- A state-sanctioned ceremony is a powerful symbol that the relationship has been contracted and celebrated within loving family and community units.
- They will provide a much-needed boost to the state economy, directly to the state government through licensing and administrative fees, and indirectly to the state economy through ceremonial goods and services related to each union's events.
- They are a step in the right direction for equality while the federal government navigates through the current delays in enacting a change to the federal Marriage Act.

We commend the Palaszczuk government for committing to its election promise of reinstating civil relationship elements that were unnecessarily overturned by the Newman government in 2012.

We seek to make us of the legislation to ensure our relationship is recognised in our home state.



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