



**Legal Affairs, Police, Corrective
Services and Emergency
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Editor's notes:

- The Legal Affairs, Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services Committee has responsibilities in the portfolio areas of Attorney-General and Justice, Fair Trading, Police and Community Safety.
- Hon Dean Wells will be available for interviews - please call (07) 3293 1069.
- Further information is available from: www.parliament.qld.gov.au/lapcsesc or by contacting the committee secretariat on 3406 7307.

Media Release

Civil Partnerships

A Parliamentary committee will hold a public hearing on the Civil Partnerships Bill 2011.

This private members Bill, introduced by Hon Andrew Fraser MP on 25 October 2011, was referred to the Legal Affairs, Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services Committee of the Queensland Parliament for examination and report to the House by 21 November 2011.

Submissions on the bill have now closed with the committee receiving over 2600 submissions.

The public hearing will take place at Parliament House on **Thursday 10 November 2011 from 9.30am to 5pm.**

Numbers are limited, so those wishing to attend to observe the public hearing must RSVP by Tuesday 8 November 2011 to: lapcsesc_rsvp@parliament.qld.gov.au.

Observers must arrive at the Parliamentary Annexe on Alice Street by 9.10am at the latest to clear security.

The Bill would provide for the legal recognition and registration in Queensland of civil partnerships between two eligible adults, regardless of gender.

This would be done through the registration of the civil partnership on the Register of Births, Deaths and Marriages, or by the couple making a declaration of their civil partnership before a civil partnership notary, prior to registration.

To be eligible to enter into a civil partnership, a person must be an adult who is not married or in a civil partnership. The proposed civil partners must not be lineal ancestors or descendants, or a sibling or half-sibling of their proposed civil partner, and at least one of the proposed civil partners must live in Queensland.

A civil partnership would be terminated by the death of one partner, the marriage of one partner, or by a court order where the partners have lived separately and apart for 12 months and that the civil partnership has broken down and there is no likelihood of a reconciliation.

The rights and obligations of defacto partners, regardless of gender, has been legally recognised in Queensland since 2002.

The Bill would also allow the recognition of civil partnerships registered in other jurisdictions for the purposes of State legislation. Civil partnerships are recognised through a registration process in Tasmania, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales. The Australian Capital Territory also provides for civil partners to make a declaration to each other of their intention to enter into a civil partnership, prior to registration.

For further information, contact the Committee secretariat on the contact details below:

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