

1 November 2011

Civil Partnerships Bill 2011

I am writing to express a number of concerns over the proposed legislation.

1. This legislation will materially affect the nature of our society. For it to be planned for passage through parliament in such haste is an insult to your committee, the parliament and the people of Queensland. It would appear that this is to serve some political expedient.
2. It has been openly stated that this legislation is a step towards the redefinition of marriage with all the implications that this carries in areas such as adoption and the availability of artificial methods of creating children. Whilst there is great emphasis on “the rights” of the individuals or couples there is little reference to the rights of the child. It is far too early to be able to assess the influence on the sexual development and preferences of children reared in a homosexual setting. If society wishes to move in this direction there must be an appropriate lead-in time.
3. The redefinition of “spouse” as proposed already implies an identity of relationship rather than an equality of relationship.
4. There needs to be protection for organisations such as churches to refuse the use of their facilities for civil union ceremonies that are inimical to their beliefs. There is already evidence of anti-discrimination laws being used to over-ride freedom of debate and freedom of religion.

I earnestly request the committee to recommend the postponement of this legislation so that any party wishing to promote it may make it part of an election platform and allow the people of Queensland to voice their wishes.

Yours sincerely

John Spence