



Rivers

Community Church

November 4, 2011

Research Director
Legal Affairs, Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane
Queensland 4000

To whom it may concern

Thank you for the opportunity of making a submission regarding the Private Member's Bill entitled Civil Partnerships 2011. I am the Pastor of Rivers Community Church Inc., which is a house church in West End and President of Rock Community Care Inc., a charity working with boarding house people in the South Brisbane area. I have read the Civil Partnerships Bill 2011 www.legislation.qld.gov.au, several articles in the Courier Mail, (October 26, 2011, page 4, October 27, 2011, Editorial, page 34, page 16 and October 28, 2011, page 22) and also several articles featured on www.australianmarriage.org and, as a result, I am greatly concerned about the presentation of this Bill. We also discussed this at our church last weekend and agreed that we needed to state our views on this topic. Our views are as follows:

Firstly, we believe that marriage is a union between a man and a woman to the exclusion of others. It is a unique relationship which needs and deserves our protection. We believe that many Australians agree with this view. We believe this special relationship is the best environment to raise and nurture children and that the family unit is fundamental to our society.

Secondly, we believe that this is a Federal matter and we are curious as to why this is such a priority for the State Parliament when State issues such as health, affordable housing, mental health, education, to name a few, affect much larger sections of the community and should dominate the State Government's Agenda.

Thirdly, we understand that this proposal is promoted by activists and may not necessarily have consensus within the gay community.

Please understand, within our church we have relatives and friends who belong to the gay community and we value their friendship and support. However, as a Christian church, we strongly believe in marriage as being the union between a man and a woman to the exclusion of others and we must therefore state our opposition to the proposed legislation.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity of making this submission.

Yours faithfully

Pastor Jenny Spyve

On behalf of

Rivers Community Church Inc. and Rock Community Care Inc.