




Speech by

Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Wednesday, 30 November 2011

CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS BILL

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Employment, Skills and Mining) (10.19 pm): I rise briefly to support the bill. I do so fundamentally because I believe in a modern Queensland where all are accepted and understood. This is clearly an issue about which there are divergent opinions in the community. I respect the deeply held views of those who oppose the provisions of the bill due to their own moral convictions. However, I do not believe it should be the role of this parliament to enforce those moral convictions on the whole community. That is what the religious right consistently seeks to do.

In a pluralist society, a framework providing legal clarity for same-sex relationships, which exist in our community and are freely entered into, is appropriate—nay, it is necessary. As others have said this is what this parliament can legislate for. This is not marriage equity. I am a supporter of marriage equity and I hope that our federal parliament will modernise that legislative institution. My personal preference would be for a distinction and separation of civil marriage solemnisation from religious marriage celebration. That is the longstanding practice for heterosexual couples in France. I support a modern Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.