




Speech By
Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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RELATIONSHIPS (CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS) AND OTHER ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (12.44 pm): I rise in support of the Relationships (Civil Partnerships) and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2015. Madam Deputy Speaker Grace, like you, on 30 November 2011 I was very proud to rise in this chamber and communicate my support for the then bill. It is with a similar pride that I rise today to also provide my support for this bill, but it is also with a little bit of sadness because we are back at this point having to fight for equality for all Queenslanders. I would have thought that when we fought for equality four years ago and won that fight that would have been a fight that we would not have to have again, so it is with a bit of sadness but also pride that I rise in support of this bill. On 30 November 2011 I said—

My vision for Queensland is that together we can continue to build open, tolerant, supportive, understanding and compassionate communities where we together promote an agenda to ensure that all Queenslanders—all people—are treated equally irrespective of their marital status, sexuality, race or religion.

Today we have the opportunity to fulfil that vision once again and restore equality for Queenslanders, irrespective of their sexual orientation, with this bill. I was on the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee which considered this bill and I was very pleased to see government members ensure that the views of all submitters to the committee's inquiry were recorded. It was disappointing to see that those views had to be recorded in a statement of reservation to the report because, unfortunately, we could not get support from those opposite to include that in the body of the report, but nonetheless it is important that those views be recorded and noted.

As I said, I am very proud to rise in support of this bill today. I ask all members to consider supporting this bill. I also ask those people who might not necessarily agree with the terms of this bill to talk to each other, to talk to their children and to talk to their neighbours and their friends and their family, to have an open mind and to think about the type of Queensland that they want to live in. This is a bill which continues that great reform of providing greater equality and tolerance in Queensland. I would be hopeful that following all those conversations that members and people will have with each other they will also see that this is great legislation which goes to making Queensland a fairer place.