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For immediate release



Media Release

Love Makes a Family

The Queensland Association for Healthy Communities calls on all members of Queensland Parliament to support making non-commercial surrogacy legal for all, including gay & lesbian couples, and to legally recognise both parents in a same sex-headed family.

The proposed law reform would allow for a woman to bear a child on behalf of a person or couple and for legal parentage to be transferred from the birth mother to the intending parent/s.

An independent counsellor must determine that all parties, the birth mother and intended parent/s, understand the consequences of surrogacy, the intended parent/s have planned for the care of the child and that it is in the best interests of a child.

In a separate reform, the presumption of parenthood is to be extended to same-sex female couples, giving legal recognition to the non-biological mother in addition to the biological mother.

Both of these reforms are aimed at building and supporting families and increasing security and protection for children.

Over two-thirds (67%) of Queenslanders support legal recognition of both parents in a same-sex parented family.

(Galaxy Poll, 2009 – http://www.qahc.org.au/files/shared/Galaxy_Poll_Report_1_.pdf/)

“The only test of parenthood should be whether a loving, nurturing and safe environment can be provided for the child, not the gender of the parents” said Paul Martin, General Manager.

“Numerous studies from Australia and around the world show that children raised by same-sex couples develop equally as well as those raised by opposite sex couples.”

*“In the debate we are likely to hear that children must have a male and female influence – as though same-sex couples don’t have male **and** female family members, friends and care networks.”*

“They will say that only married couples should be able to raise children – yet they won’t let same-sex couples marry.”

“They will say that children raised by same-sex parents will experience stigma and discrimination as they grow up – yet they are the ones doing the stigmatising and discriminating.”

“We call on all members of parliament to be respectful in the debate today. We don’t want to see a repeat of the hurtful comments made by the Member of Nanango, Dorothy Pratt MP in the adoption debate, where she stated that homosexuals are ‘not normal’.”

For further information or to arrange an interview contact Paul Martin, General Manager on 07 3017 1791, 0407 376 540 or pmartin@qahc.org.au

The Queensland Association for Healthy Communities (formerly Queensland AIDS Council) is a community based organisation which promotes the health of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Queenslanders.