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For immediate release



Media Release

Civil Partnerships a Win for All Queenslanders

Healthy Communities welcomes the passing of the Civil Partnerships Act 2011 and thanks all those in the parliament who voted for it and those in the community who supported it.

“The passing of this Act brings lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Queenslanders a large step closer to full equality” said Paul Martin, Executive Director.

“The widespread support for the Act shows that Queenslanders support their LGBT family members, friends and work colleagues and want equality. Equality for all Queenslanders benefits all Queenslanders.”

“While we respectfully disagree with those who spoke against the bill, we thank them for their considered contribution to the debate.”

Civil partnerships provide an option for those people, gay or straight, who can't or don't want to be married, but want and need their relationship formally recognised. This will have practical benefits for people in proving their relationship especially in times of crisis, but also sends a symbolic message of acceptance to LGBT people, especially young people.

“While the LNP couldn't bring itself to support civil unions, we hope that they can support initiatives to reduce suicide and mental health problems among LGBT people and tackle the wider health & wellbeing problems that affect our communities.”

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

* Healthy Communities is a community based, health promotion charity working with and for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities in Queensland (previously the Queensland AIDS Council).

For a summary of key issues affecting LGBT people see www.healthycommunities.org.au/speakout