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For immediate release



Media Release

LNP Misses Opportunity to Show Support for LGBT Queenslanders

Healthy Communities, Queensland's largest LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) organisation, has expressed its disappointment in the LNP for passing up the opportunity to show its support for the LGBT community.

Responding to news that the LNP party room has agreed unanimously not to support the bill to introduce civil unions, Paul Martin, Executive Director said *"making changes to the law to bring equality for same-sex couples is not a stunt or a distraction. It's a long overdue reform that a clear majority of Queenslanders support."*

"It's not just LGBT people who would benefit from civil unions, but their families, friends and work colleagues. Most Queenslanders know someone who is LGBT or has an LGBT family member and want to be able to celebrate their relationship, just as they do opposite-sex relationships. It's only fair."

"While it may have taken Labor 13 years to get to this reform, it should be acknowledged that Labor decriminalised homosexuality, introduced anti-discrimination legislation, recognised same-sex de-facto couples, legalised altruistic surrogacy and extended the presumption of parenthood to lesbian parents. Contrast this to the record of the National Party on LGBT issues in their over 30 years in government."

"This reform is not about marriage. Civil unions are not the same as marriage. Evidence from around the world shows that civil unions have less social standing and less recognition than marriage. However civil unions are an option for those that don't want to or can't marry, but want legal recognition."

Healthy Communities calls on the LNP to change its view before the vote on the bill.

Healthy Communities has on several occasions over the past few months sought a meeting with Campbell Newman and/or his advisers to discuss key health, wellbeing and legal issues for LGBT Queenslanders[#]. We look forward to an opportunity to discuss these important issues with Mr Newman in the near future.

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 or Mark Morein, Chair on 0438 727 981 or mmorein@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