

21 October 2011  
For immediate release



# Media Release

## Speak Out for LGBT Equality

Healthy Communities has released lobbying documents and a new web page in preparation for this year's Queensland state election.

LGBT people have higher health risk factors, poorer health and less access to health services. Healthy Communities has produced a one-page summary of key health statistics covering: mental health, alcohol, tobacco & other drugs, seniors, healthy lifestyles, community safety and transgender people.

Healthy Communities has also developed a set of recommended actions that we are asking the main political parties to commit to. Practical actions are listed covering:

- law reform
- government representation
- programs & services for LGBT Queenslanders
- Healthy Communities infrastructure

We have also produced more detailed funding proposal outlines for priority services/programs:

- LGBT Mental Health Promotion & Support Service
- LGBT Families and Communities Support Service
- LGBT Community Development Program
- LGBT Health Promotion & Prevention Program

Healthy Communities is seeking commitments from the main parties to fund these much needed services for the LGBT community.

*"This election is likely to be very significant for Queensland and the LGBT community" said Paul R Martin, Executive Director. "We have been making slow but steady progress on LGBT issues and we need all political parties to commit to practical action to address health and wellbeing needs in our community, including equality before the law."*

Healthy Communities has been meeting with Ministers, Shadow Ministers and advisors over the past month and will continue to do so in the lead up to the election, to highlight the needs of LGBT Queenslanders.

The Speak Out webpage, [www.healthycommunities.org.au/speakout](http://www.healthycommunities.org.au/speakout) provides suggestions for people to speak out about LGBT inequality as well as links to the main political parties, the ABC election page and the Electoral Commission Queensland. The page will be updated with additional features as the election gets closer and is officially announced.

For further information or to arrange an interview contact Paul Martin, Executive Director on 07 3017 1791, 0407 376 540 or [pmartin@qhac.org.au](mailto:pmartin@qhac.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).