

27 October 2011  
For immediate release



# Media Release

## While Politicians Bicker, LGBT Queenslanders Still Suffer

Healthy Communities calls on politicians to stop arguing among themselves and commit to real action to help Queensland's LGBT community.

*"It's surprising and deeply disappointing that in 2011 we still have politicians that don't fully support equality for all Queenslanders" said Paul Martin, Executive Director. "Homosexuality is not a lifestyle choice. Homosexuality cannot be changed. Being LGBT does not harm anyone. Being LGBT does not infringe on other's human rights. Why is this still a topic of debate?"*

*"While law reform such as civil unions is a good step forward, there is a long journey ahead to repair the damage that decades of stigma, discrimination and exclusion have inflicted on LGBT people."*

- LGB people have twice the levels of anxiety, depression and mental ill-health – yet there are no specific LGBT mental health services in Queensland
- LGB people are four times more likely to have suicidal thoughts or plans (up to 14 times among young people) – yet there are no specific LGBT suicide prevention programs in Queensland
- Over 50% of LGBT people have suffered violence or harassment in the past two years due to their sexual orientation or gender identity – yet there are no crime prevention or victim support services specifically for LGBT Queenslanders
- LGB people are four times more likely to be homeless – yet there are no LGBT specific homelessness funded by the Queensland government
- Older LGBT people face going back into the closet when they access aged care and suffer social isolation from peers – yet there are no support services for LGBT seniors funded by the Queensland government.
- Transgender people face long, complicated and personally costly medical and legal procedures - yet there are no funded support services for transgender people in Queensland

Healthy Communities is calling on the major political parties to commit to a plan of action to address LGBT inequality, health and wellbeing needs. We have produced a set of specific, practical actions to address priority issues for the LGBT community#. Politicians can move from rhetoric to action by supporting these proposals.

Healthy Communities has been and will continue to meet with politicians and advisers from all sides of politics to highlight the needs of the LGBT community and put forward our agenda in the lead-up to the next election.

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