



Hon Paul Lucas MP



Queensland
Government

Our ref: 536329/1; AG/11/00660

Deputy Premier and Attorney-General
Minister for Local Government and
Special Minister of State

21 APR 2011

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Corner Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter dated 23 March 2011 regarding petition number 1528-10, tabled in Parliament on 22 March 2011.

As the petitioners would be aware, under the Queensland *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003*, the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages can only record marriages as defined by the Commonwealth's *Marriage Act 1961*. The *Marriage Act 1961* does not recognise de facto or same sex relationships as marriages and as such, these relationships are not able to be registered in Queensland.

I am aware that Victoria, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales have relationship registration schemes which allow same sex and heterosexual de facto couples, and in some cases unpaid carers, to register their relationship at their equivalent version of the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

The Queensland Government has not made any decision regarding a scheme for relationship registration in Queensland. Any decision on this issue will involve taking into account the diverse views of the Queensland community and the operation of such schemes in other jurisdictions.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners. I would like to thank the petitioners for bringing their views to the attention of the Parliament.

Yours sincerely

PAUL LUCAS MP
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Minister for Local Government
and Special Minister of State

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