



Speech by  
**Jackie Trad**

**MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE**

Hansard Thursday, 31 May 2012

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### **CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS**

 **Ms TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (3.46 pm): Last November thousands of Queenslanders rallied outside this House to call for equality and urged members of parliament to support the Civil Partnerships Bill 2011. Last night, just six months on from that momentous occasion, thousands gathered again in the same spot but this time to protect their rights that were so hard fought for and won. Last night they rallied against the small-minded and mean plan announced by the Premier to review and possibly repeal civil unions in Queensland. It beggars belief that in the 21st century in a First World economy that the LNP, a political party that prides itself on elevating the freedoms of the individual, should be now contemplating restricting those freedoms and extinguishing rights.

Last night they also came out in their thousands to express their support for the Queensland Association for Healthy Communities, or QAHC, which has been summarily defunded without consultation or notice. QAHC has done an outstanding job bringing the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender and intersex community together to educate against HIV infection. That was obvious last night. The fact that the health minister stands in this House and claims that at best QAHC is a failure or at worst at fault for the increase in HIV infections in Queensland shows a complete lack of understanding of epidemiology. There are many factors that have contributed to the increase in HIV infection rates in Queensland and there are a number of organisations responsible for education and prevention, not just QAHC, and the minister well knows this. The Minister for Health's decision is wrong and his assertions are dangerous. The funding cut to QAHC is a political and ideological decision by the Minister for Health pure and simple. By the minister's rationale, domestic violence services should be defunded because domestic violence rates have increased; police services should be cut because crime is on the increase; disability services should be scrapped because more Queenslanders are being diagnosed with a disability every single day. Where does this stop? Or is it just the queer community that is to be targeted and marginalised?

I know that many people come to this place with a strong sense of faith motivated by purpose. However, our responsibility in this place is to represent all of our constituents and defend all their human rights, not just some. Make no mistake: the Queensland Labor Party will stand up for civil unions. We will stand up for equality on every single occasion. We may not have the numbers in this House, but we certainly have the courage of our convictions to stand up for what is right, to stand up for what is decent, unlike members opposite.