

# GLITF (GAY AND LESBIAN IMMIGRATION TASKFORCE)QLD

## WHEN WILL QUEENSLAND SET UP A RELATIONSHIPS REGISTER?

With the recent announcement that the NSW Government will soon introduce legislation to create a Relationships Register making it easier for committed unmarried couples to access legal entitlements and prove they are in committed or de facto relationships, the Queensland President of the Gay and Lesbian Immigration Task Force, Gaby Sitzmann, has called on the Premier Anna Bligh to implement similar legislative reform in Queensland as soon as possible

Relationship Registers are already in place in the ACT, Victoria and Tasmania.

“A Relationships Register would ensure Queensland was aligned with Commonwealth Government moves to remove discrimination against unmarried people in heterosexual and same-sex relationships,” Ms Sitzmann said.

“Under current laws, it can be very difficult for Queensland couples who are in de-facto or committed relationships to prove their relationship for the purpose of accessing government services, entitlements or records.”

“With a Relationships Register in place, Queensland couples who chose to register their relationship would be provided with one document that helped prove their relationship and thus would be spared the frustration of constantly having to supply agencies with copious amounts of paperwork.”

Ms Sitzmann said a Queensland Relationships Register would not provide for civil unions, but rather reflect the serious commitment made by couples who choose to register their relationship.

“Couples would need to prove that they were eligible to be included on the Queensland Relationships Register and would have the registration terminated if the relationship dissolved,” she said.

To be eligible to register in existing interstate Relationships Registers couples typically need to prove that they:

- Are in a committed, exclusive relationship;
- Are not already married or in another relationship that was registered or registrable
- Are 18 years of age or older; and
- One person must be a resident of the relevant state concerned.

Ms Sitzmann said that in establishing a Queensland Relationships Register the state government would also hopefully amend legislation allowing registered relationships to be considered on par with de facto relationships under Queensland law.

“The establishment of a Queensland Relationships Register would contribute to the goal of a unified system of relationships registration across Australia and simplify processes for unmarried couples. The Register could be easily managed by the existing Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages,” she said.

“A Queensland Relationship Register and expanded definition of de facto relationship would ensure Queensland was aligned with the Federal Government’s removal of discrimination against people in same-sex relationships in Commonwealth laws relating to workers compensation, veterans’ affairs, educational assistance and superannuation”, Ms Sitzmann concluded.

For further information contact Gaby Sitzmann, President, Queensland Gay and Lesbian Immigration Task Force, E-mail: [watsugaby@gmx.net](mailto:watsugaby@gmx.net) 26<sup>th</sup> February 2010