

Media Release

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New Labor MLC declares his support for gay marriage equality and IVF access for lesbians in his maiden speech

New Labor MLC Hon Gerry Kandelaars, who was appointed to replace Paul Holloway in the Legislative Council, has used his maiden speech to back marriage equality and greater rights for homosexuals.

In his speech to Parliament on 28 September 2011, Mr Kandelaars spoke of his Dutch migrant parents and their strong marriage and of his family. Mr Kandelaars also spoke of his lesbian daughter Katie and her partner Simone, remarking that “in the eyes of the law, they are second-class citizens, which they are certainly not.”

Mr Kandelaars said: “As a father of a homosexual daughter, I know the anguish that the current laws that prohibit gay marriage cause, not only for Katie and Simone but also for the rest of our tight-knit family.”

Mr Kandelaars called on Australians “to truly accept that homosexuality is a reality and that homosexual couples should be able to have their relationship and their love recognised under our secular law, just as heterosexual couples can.”

Last year at the ALP State Convention Mr Kandelaars voted in support of Penny Wong’s motion on marriage equality and his support was crucial for the motion passing.

Mr Kandelaars also confirmed that he would support Hon Ian Hunter MLC’s Assisted Reproductive Treatment Bill which will allow lesbian and single women to access IVF in South Australia.

“In my view, parenting is not about gender but about your commitment and devotion to your children and about the love you have for them and about what is in your heart.” Mr Kandelaars told Parliament.

Mr Hunter warmly welcomes Mr Kandelaars to the Legislative Council, and is delighted to have his support on these crucial gay rights issues.