

FACT SHEET: MARRIAGE EQUALITY IN TASMANIA AND ACROSS AUSTRALIA

Tasmanian Parliament marriage equality motion

- supports marriage equality and calls on the Federal Government to amend the Marriage Act to allow same-sex couples to marry but will not directly allow same-sex marriages
- introduced by Tasmanian Greens Leader, Nick McKim
- supported by the Labor Party, opposed by the Liberal Party
- first of its kind to be supported by a House of Parliament in Australia

Marriage equality in Tasmania

- Tasmania was the last Australian state to decriminalise homosexuality in 1997 but the first state to adopt a civil union scheme in 2004 and the first state to recognise overseas same-sex marriages in 2010
- marriage equality is supported by at least **60%** of Tasmanians with national polls showing higher support in Tasmania than nationally
- it also has the support of two successive state Labor conferences, and of prominent Tasmanians like world champion axeman, David Foster
- the Tasmanian Greens have twice introduced state same-sex marriage laws (2005 & 2008) and plan to do so again if the Federal Government doesn't act by the end of the year

Marriage equality in Australia

- an issue since the Howard Government banned same-sex marriages in 2004, a major issue since federal election of 2010
- supported by **60%** of Australians including **53%** of Australian Christians
- supported by the state ALP conferences in all states except NSW, but opposed by the leaders of both major parties

The case for marriage equality

- legal equality
- practical benefit of instant access to entitlements and proof of relationship status
- strengthens bonds between partners and families, and provides security and recognition for children

The economic case for equality

- if same-sex couples were able to marry under national law they would spend an estimated **\$742 million** on weddings
- if Tasmania was the first state to recognise same-sex marriages it would benefit by **\$134.7 million** from interstate couples marrying in Tasmania

Key quotes

"My daughter, Sally, her partner and their child are a family just like any other family so why can't they have that recognised through marriage?"

- **David Foster**, Tasmanian world champion axeman

"There are economic benefits that would flow by having Tasmania at the top of queue on same-sex marriages. Look at the gains made by the California economy from being the first state off the rank in recognising same-sex marriages as legitimate."

- **Dr Bruce Felmingham**, reader in economics at the University of Tasmania