

The Hon Michael Daley MP
Attorney General



Ref: EAP24/15874

Petition Ref: 2309

Mr David Blunt
Clerk of the Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

30 OCT 2024

By email: David.blunt@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Blunt, *David*

Vote against the Equality Legislation Amendment (LGBTIQA+) Bill 2023

I refer to the petition presented on 26 September 2024 by Greg Donnelly MLC, calling for members of the Legislative Council to vote against the Equality Legislation Amendment (LGBTIQA+) Bill 2023 (the **Equality Bill**).

On 24 August 2023, Mr Alex Greenwich MP, Member for Sydney, introduced a private members bill, the Equality Bill. As originally tabled, the Equality Bill proposed amendments to 20 different Acts or instruments across various ministerial portfolios.

After extensive consultation, including a Parliamentary inquiry, the NSW Government supported the legislation with amendments, including amendments to remove proposed changes to anti-discrimination law, police search powers and the definition of gender in NSW legislation. The Equality Bill passed Parliament on 17 October 2024.

The *Equality Legislation Amendment (LGBTIQA+) Act 2024* was assented to on 23 October 2024. It makes various legislative changes, including:

- Allowing people to change their registered sex through an administrative process, without requiring surgery.
- Updating terminology to replace terms such as “HIV infection” and “suffering with AIDS” to “living with HIV/AIDS”
- Making it an aggravating factor in sentencing that the crime was motivated by hatred or prejudice for people who are transgender, gender diverse or intersex.
- Making it clear that ‘outing a person’ is a form of intimidation, which can form the ground for an apprehended violence order to be made.
- Enabling a parentage order to be made for a child born through international commercial surrogacy, if that is in the best interests of the child.

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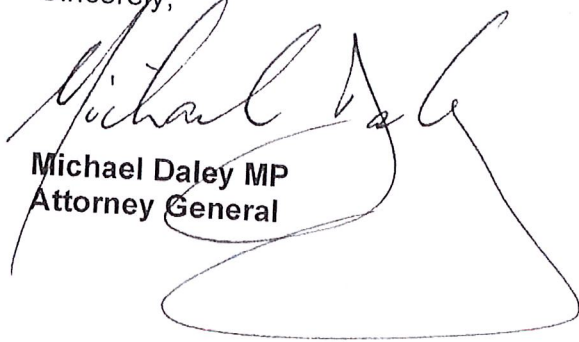
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These changes will commence on 1 July 2025 or earlier on a day to be appointed by proclamation.

The Act strikes the right balance between protecting and supporting the LGBTQIA+ community and respecting the diverse beliefs of our broad NSW community.


I thank Mr Donnelly and the signatories to the petition for their advocacy on this issue.

Sincerely,



Michael Daley MP
Attorney General

Received at 6:35pm
Wednesday 30 October
2024



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