

Deb Foskey MLA

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1 Aug 08

Assurance sought on gay ceremony override

Dr Deb Foskey MLA and Greens Leader Senator Bob Brown have today written to the Federal Attorney General seeking assurance that if Dr Foskey's Bill to reinstate statutory civil union ceremonies in the ACT is debated and passed later this month, the Commonwealth Government would not use that as an opportunity to override the ACT's existing civil partnerships registry as well.

"I don't believe there is any good reason to oppose the introduction of official, statutory ceremonies for those couples wishing to formalise their civil partnerships, which is why I have tabled a Bill to allow such ceremonies" Dr Foskey said today.

"Nonetheless, the Federal Government has expressed concerns about such provisions, and there is a possibility that if the ACT Assembly supports my Bill, that Bill might be disallowed in the federal parliament."

"The ACT Labor Government has also said that in such circumstances the Federal Government might disallow the ACT's entire existing civil partnerships legislation, including the existing partnership registry."

"While I can't imagine Federal Attorney General Robert McClelland would countenance such a petty and pointless act, Senator Brown and I have written to him seeking his assurance that he will not intervene to overturn the existing registry, in order to remove any final concerns the ACT Government might have."

"We look forward to his response" Dr Foskey said.

**Dr Foskey is speaking at the Canberra civil unions rally, for the
4th annual National Day of Action for Relationship Equality
Saturday 2 August, 1.30pm @ Garema Place, Civic.**

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