

# Deb Foskey MLA

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## **Bill for civil ceremonies**

ACT Greens MLA Deb Foskey will introduce a bill to reinstate the ACT Government's original plan to allow same-sex couples to have their relationships formalised with a ceremony.

"These provisions in the original Civil Partnerships Bill were objected to by the Federal Government, and so they were withdrawn in order to ensure that the other important advances in the Bill were protected" Dr Foskey said today.

"I propose now to reintroduce an option for same-sex couples to have their relationships formalised through a ceremony, which the ACT Government could support without the fear that its other good work was put at risk."

"If the Federal Government was of a mind to keep the religious right on side and block this initiative, it could (and presumably would) override my amending Act, and leave the ACT Government's existing legislation alone."

"The Bill I will introduce tomorrow is not simply a reversion to the original Civil Partnership Bill. Couples, same sex or otherwise, would have the option of formally establishing their relationship through a ceremony or simply registering their existing relationship, as the current Act allows."

"I find it very hard to understand how this approach - where couples choose for themselves - could concern anyone in our community" Dr Foskey said.

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