

Overview of Bill

The object of this Bill is to amend the Adoption Act 2000 to allow couples of the same sex to adopt children. At present under the Act, a couple is defined to mean a man and a woman who are married or who have a de facto relationship. The Bill amends that definition, along with the definition of spouse, so that they include persons who are de facto partners. The definition of de facto partner in the Interpretation Act 1987 refers to persons whether they are of the same sex or a different sex. The Bill will also enable the same sex de facto partner of a person who is the adoptive parent of a child to adopt that child in his or her capacity as a step parent.

The Bill also makes consequential amendments to other legislation so as to enable the provision and recording of information about the adoption of children by couples of the same sex.

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Adoption Amendment (Same Sex Couples) Bill 2010

Explanatory note

Outline of provisions

Clause 1 sets out the name (also called the short title) of the proposed Act.

Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on the date of assent to the proposed Act.

Schedules 1 and 2 make the amendments described in the above Overview.