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MEDIA RELEASE

Committee holding inquiry into the Equality Legislation Amendment (LGBTIQA+) Bill 2023

The Committee on Community Services is holding an inquiry into the Equality Legislation Amendment (LGBTIQA+) Bill 2023 after it was referred to the Committee by the Legislative Assembly on 13 March 2024.

The Bill aims to provide equality for LGBTIQA+ people by amending 20 different laws. The Committee will look at each of the proposed changes in detail and any operational issues.

'The Bill was introduced by the Independent Member for Sydney, Alex Greenwich, to improve protections for LGBTIQA+ people against discrimination in a range of areas. Members of these communities still experience discrimination in NSW and one of the things the Committee will be looking at is ways to improve their safety and wellbeing,' said Committee Chair, Clayton Barr MP.

'The Committee understands there is a lot of public interest in the Bill and we will be looking closely at the proposed changes to understand how they would operate. As the Bill proposes to amend 20 different laws, it's important that we hear from a range of stakeholders.'

The public can have their say on the Bill through an online survey. The Committee will also seek the views of LGBTIQA+ support groups, government agencies, civil society groups, churches, health organisations and legal groups, among others.

The Committee will report its findings by Monday 3 June 2024. After that time, the Bill will go back to Parliament for further debate.

More information on the inquiry, including the terms of reference and a link to the online survey, is available on the Committee's <u>webpage</u>.

The survey will close on 14 April 2024.

Media contact: Clayton Barr MP, Chair (02) 4991 1466