



23 April 2009

**Legislative Council
Standing Committee on Law and Justice**

**INQUIRY INTO ADOPTION BY
SAME SEX COUPLES**

The Law and Justice Committee has decided to await the outcome of a decision on a relevant case to be handed down by the Appeal Panel of the Administrative Decisions Tribunal before completing its inquiry into adoption by same-sex couples.

Committee Chair, the Hon Christine Robertson MLC, today said, “The Committee has finalised its hearings and submissions are closed. The Committee has now resolved that it will await the outcome of the appeal on *OV and anor v QV and anor* (No.2) before finalising its report. In its decision the Administrative Decisions Tribunal found that an organisation run by Wesley Mission had discriminated against a same-sex couple on the grounds of homosexuality when it refused to provide them with services relating to making an application to become foster carers.”

“The Committee understands that the appeal hearing took place in recent days, but that a decision has not yet been handed down. The Committee considers that the decision will be relevant to the deliberations on its report.”

The inquiry into adoption by same-sex couples was referred to the Committee by the Minister for Community Services, the Hon Linda Burney MP, on 27 November 2008.

*For further information please contact the Committee Secretariat on
9230 2976 or for comment, please contact the Hon Christine
Robertson MLC, Chair of the Committee on (02) 9230 2971*