



AUSTRALIAN
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Media release

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South Australia to recognise overseas same-sex marriages

Australian Lawyers for Human Rights (ALHR) welcomes South Australian Premier Jay Weatherill's personal guarantee that David Bulmer-Rizzer's death certificate will be issued with his correct marriage status and that South Australia will introduce legislation to recognise overseas same-sex marriages.

Following Mr Bulmer-Rizzer's tragic death while honeymooning in Adelaide, his husband Marco was told that his partner's death certificate would state that he was 'never married' and that he was not recognised by the state as a next of kin. However following public outcry, Premier Weatherill has apologised for the incident and stated that it was "deeply shaming" for South Australia.

Nathan Kennedy, President of ALHR said "ALHR strongly supports Premier Weatherill's move to introduce legislation consistent with Australia's international human rights obligations including the principles of equality and non-discrimination as set out in the *Universal Declaration for Human Rights* and the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* as well as Australia's obligations under the *Hague Convention on the Recognition and Celebration of Marriages*".

Mr Kennedy noted that ALHR made previous submissions to the Australian Government on this very issue "the obligation not to discriminate imposes a positive duty on the Government to prevent discrimination within its jurisdiction. The Government can do this through allowing same sex marriage in...Australia and recognising same-sex marriages that have been entered into in foreign jurisdictions".

ALHR applauds Premier Weatherill for acting to remedy the failure of South Australia to recognise overseas same-sex marriages and calls on the remaining Australian jurisdictions that are yet to take such action to follow suit.

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ALHR was established in 1993 and is a national network of over 2600 Australian solicitors, barristers, academics, judicial officers and law students who practise and promote international human rights law in Australia. ALHR has active and engaged National, State and Territory committees and a secretariat at La Trobe University Law School in Melbourne. Through advocacy, media engagement, education, networking, research and training, ALHR promotes, practices and protects universally accepted standards of human rights throughout Australia and overseas.