

# Questions for Candidates 2009 Queensland Election

The following questions address issues relating to matters of community debate and sometimes Queensland parliamentary vote during recent years. Please indicate how you would vote or did vote on these issues by answering each question - by ticking the appropriate box or by writing an answer on a separate sheet. If you are bound by party policy on a particular question, please provide an answer in accordance with that policy.

## 1. Prayers in Parliament

Christian prayers in parliament is part of our Australian heritage - reminding MPs, like all other people, that they are imperfect and need guidance. This tradition recognises the great majority of Queenslanders who identified themselves as adherents of Christianity in the 2006 Census. Opening parliamentary proceedings with prayer is a helpful reminder that members of parliament are accountable for their actions.

**Would you support the continued opening of parliament with Christian prayers?**

Yes definitely  Probably  Unsure  Unlikely  Definitely not  No comment

## 2. Abortion law

Abortion is a criminal offence in Queensland although a limited defence may be available for abortions performed for a serious threat to the mother's physical or mental health. A bill to legalise abortion would remove any restraint on doctors and leave the unborn child without any legal protection.

**Would you oppose any bill to legalise abortion?**

Yes definitely  Probably  Unsure  Unlikely  Definitely not  No comment

## 3. Child pornography

Child pornography is generally illegal in Queensland. However, a defence for child pornography that has "artistic merit" allows the production, publication and display of material that would otherwise be illegal. Children need protection from all child pornography.

**Would you support the removal of the artistic merit defence for child pornography?**

Yes definitely  Probably  Unsure  Unlikely  Definitely not  No comment

## 4. Same-sex relationship registers

Victoria, Tasmania and the ACT each have laws which allow same-sex relationships to be registered by the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages. Registration treats a same-sex relationship as having equal status with marriage. Marriage provides public benefits by creating the best environment for raising children. Its unique status should be preserved.

**Would you oppose any bill to allow the registration of same-sex relationships?**

Yes definitely  Probably  Unsure  Unlikely  Definitely not  No comment

## 5. Legislative Council

The Commonwealth and every State parliament except Queensland has an upper house of review to check abuse of government power and to protect against corruption. The abolition of the Queensland Legislative Council in 1922, in spite of a referendum gaining 60% support for its retention, was itself an abuse of power.

**Would you support legislation to restore the Legislative Council in the Queensland Parliament?**

Yes definitely  Probably  Unsure  Unlikely  Definitely not  No comment

## 6. Vilification laws

Current vilification laws prohibit inciting 'severe ridicule' based on religion, sexuality or gender identity. These laws inappropriately restrain free speech when a diversity of views is legitimate. They also restrict freedom of religion by inhibiting preaching on other religions or on matters of sexuality or gender identity. A free society needs to accommodate robust debate on these matters.

**Would you support a bill to remove vilification offences based on religion, sexuality and gender identity?**

Yes definitely  Probably  Unsure  Unlikely  Definitely not  No comment

## 7. Adoption laws

Queensland law currently permits adoption only by married couples, other than in exceptional circumstances. Research evidence confirms that children flourish best when raised by a mother and a father who are married to each other. De facto relationships are significantly less stable than marriages. Before being entrusted with an adopted child, a man and woman should be prepared to make the public, lifelong commitment of marriage.

**Would you oppose any change to adoption laws to allow de facto couples to adopt children?**

Yes definitely  Probably  Unsure  Unlikely  Definitely not  No comment

## 8. Surrogacy

Surrogacy involves an agreement made before a pregnancy commences for the woman who will carry and give birth to the child to hand it over to another person or persons to be raised. Surrogacy, which treats the child as a commodity and the birth mother as a mere incubator, is currently illegal in Queensland.

**Would you oppose any bill to legalise surrogacy?**

Yes definitely  Probably  Unsure  Unlikely  Definitely not  No comment

## 9. Prostitution

The Prostitution Act 1999 (s64) does not allow local councils in towns of more than 25,000 population to refuse brothel applications. This denies residents of larger towns and cities the right to protect their social environment. The right of refusal should be extended to all local councils.

**Would you support a bill to give all local councils in Queensland the right to veto legal brothels?**

Yes definitely  Probably  Unsure  Unlikely  Definitely not  No comment

## 10. Human cloning

In October 2007 the Queensland parliament voted to lift the prohibition on human embryo cloning. However since then, scientists have developed new ethical patient-matched stem cells. They are pluripotent like embryonic stem cells, but do not require cloning or destroying human embryos. Cloning is now scientifically redundant.

**Would you support a bill to prohibit human cloning?**

Yes definitely  Probably  Unsure  Unlikely  Definitely not  No comment

## CANDIDATE DETAILS

Name: .....

Electorate: .....

Party: .....

Signature: .....

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