



Legislative Changes For Same-Sex Relationships

General Information – Questions and Answers

Are same-sex de facto partners disadvantaged by the changes?

No. The legislative changes broaden the recognition and entitlements same-sex de facto partners and their children currently have. Importantly, under the legislative changes same-sex de facto partners and their dependent children are eligible to apply for the same visas as opposite-sex de facto partners and their dependent children. Same-sex de facto couples also have the same entitlements as opposite-sex de facto couples when applying for Australian citizenship by conferral.

Do I need to disclose details of my relationship?

In certain circumstances, same-sex de facto partners may need to disclose details of their relationship. All partner visa applicants and applicants who are including their spouse or de facto partner as an applicant in other types of visa applications are required to disclose their spousal or de facto relationship to the department. For citizenship purposes, a person needs to disclose their spousal or de facto relationship if they intend to rely on this relationship for a residence discretion. All client information received by the department is treated confidentially and in accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988*.

Will same-sex marriages be recognised?

No. Same-sex marriages are not recognised for migration or citizenship purposes, except to the extent that they are non-conclusive evidence of a de facto partner relationship. Similarly, marriage between opposite-sex partners is taken to be non-conclusive evidence of a spousal relationship.

Where can I find more information about the Australian Government's changes?

For more information on the Australian Government's reforms, including information about changes to social security, taxation, Medicare, veteran's affairs, superannuation, and child support, please visit the Attorney-General's website.

See: www.ag.gov.au/samesexreform

More information

More information on citizenship is available from the Citizenship website or by phoning 131 880.

See: www.citizenship.gov.au

More information on migration is available from the department's website or by phoning 131 881.

See: www.immi.gov.au