

1 November 2023



Dear Office of the Secretary – Department of Justice,

Working It Out has prepared this submission to provide feedback on the Government policy *Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Regulations 2023*. Working It Out (WIO) is Tasmania's only dedicated support, advocacy and education service for Tasmania's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and asexual (LGBTIQ+) population. Our mission is to create change through lived-experience based education, support and advocacy which enables LGBTIQ+ Tasmanians to live their best lives.

The definitions for **close relative** (within PART 1 – PRELIMINARY, 3. Interpretation) currently omit existing recognised titles/descriptors (such as 'parent' on birth registration applications) and creates an inconsistency with state legislation around legally recognised gender diverse Tasmanians. This creates a potential issue where close relatives, such as gender diverse parents, are not recognised. Sub-section (a) already includes a gender-neutral description of 'partner'. WIO's proposed solution is to insert gender-neutral titles in the description alongside existing titles, which will create consistency across the various sub-sections. See the proposed amended section below:

**close relative** in relation to a vulnerable person, means the vulnerable person's –

- (a) husband or wife, or partner within the meaning of the Relationships Act 2003; or
- (b) father, mother, **parent**, grandfather, grandmother, **grandparent**, stepfather, stepmother, father-in-law or mother-in-law, **parent-in-law**; or
- (c) son, daughter, **child**, grandson, granddaughter, **grandchild**, stepson, stepdaughter, **stepchild**, son-in-law or daughter-in-law, **child-in-law**; or
- (d) brother, sister, **sibling**, half-brother, half-sister, **half-sibling**, stepbrother, stepsister, **stepsibling**, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, **sibling-in-law**; or
- (e) uncle, aunt, **pibling**, uncle-in-law or aunt-in-law, **pibling-in-law**; or
- (f) nephew, niece, **nibling** or cousin –

but does not include a person referred to in paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) or (f) if that person has been given the care of the vulnerable person under section 69(1)(a) of the *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997*;

With Regards,

Andrew Badcock

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