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Queensland, Australia to Expunge Convictions for Homosexuality, Cancel 'Gay Panic' Defense

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by **Michael Fitzgerald**
November 30, 2016 | 5:02pm

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Lawmakers in Queensland, [Australia](#) have outlined plans for expunging historical convictions for homosexuality.

Attorney-General Yvette D'Ath (right) said that following the decriminalization of homosexuality in 1991, there have been consistent calls "for complementary law reform to ensure members of our community are not burdened by the stigma caused by such criminal convictions and charges."

D'Ath has also introduced measures to amend a section of the Criminal Code to exclude the "gay panic" defense.



Yvette D'Ath
 @YvetteDAth

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She added that a report commissioned (*Expunging criminal convictions for historical gay sex offences*) recommends the creation of a legislative framework to allow applications under an administrative scheme for expungement on a case-by-case basis:

"This is a chance for some closure for Queenslanders who continue to be hurt by the legacy of decades-old discrimination, wrongs inflicted by a past regime, from a very different Queensland from the modern state we enjoy today.

"As a parliament, we should apologise to those Queenslanders for these historic wrongs and for the hurt that followed them in the decades since."

The [Brisbane Times](#) reports that all applications would be decided by the director-general based on available records and certain criteria. Convictions would not be expunged if the conduct would be criminal under the current law.

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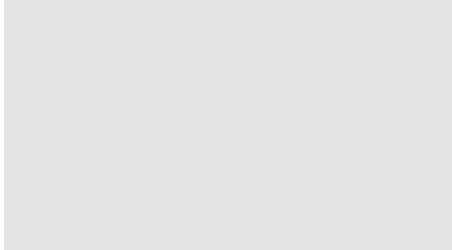
Welcoming the move, James Farrell, director of Community Legal Centres Queensland, said "although decriminalization removed the threat of prosecution for men who had sex with men, it did not address the impacts of criminal records relating to historical offences."



The legislation is expected to be introduced to parliament in the first half of 2017.

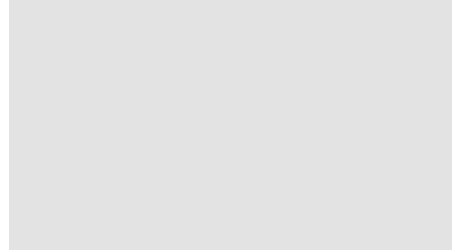
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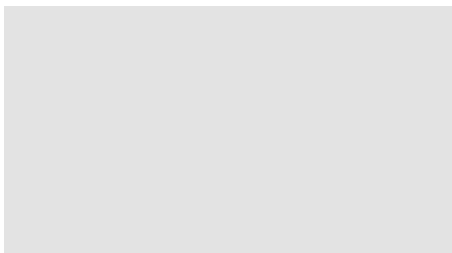
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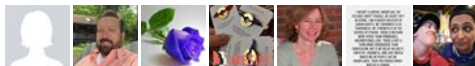


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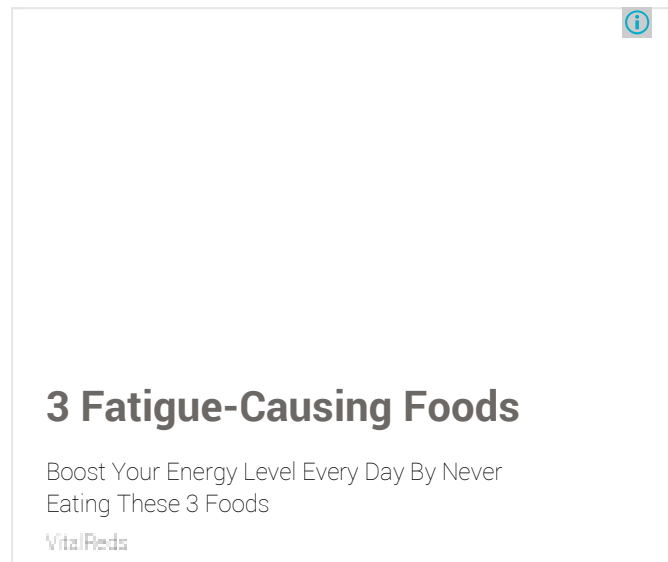
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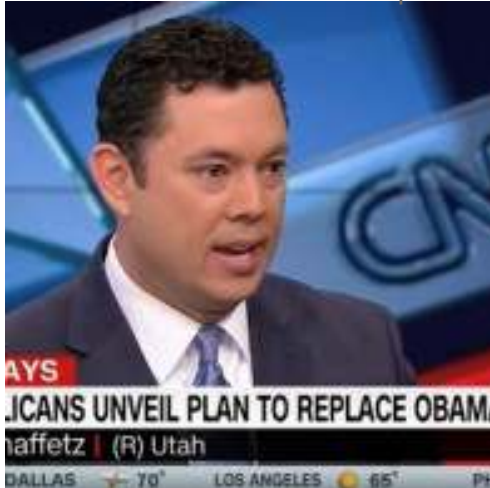


New Jersey Garden State Equality LGBT Rights Group Office Vandalized In Possible Hate Crime

The offices of New Jersey LGBT rights group Garden State Equality were vandalized over the weekend while it's director was on the premises. Executive Director Christian Fuscarino said he was inside the office on Saturday evening preparing for an even...

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German Lawmakers Launch New Push For Marriage Equality

Germany’s Social Democrats (SPD) party has announced plans to launch a new push to legalize same-sex marriage. In 2015, the SPD-Christian Democrats coalition agreed to small changes in same-sex civil partnership rules, but staunch opposition fr...

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George Michael Died of Natural Causes — Says Coroner

George Michael died of natural causes, according to Darren Salter, senior coroner for Oxfordshire, the BBC reports: The coroner said in a statement: "Inquires into the death of George Michael have been concluded and the final post-mortem report...

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Princess Diana's Butler Paul Burrell Comes Out as Gay

Princess Diana's personal butler Paul Burrell, her "rock", has come out as gay and announced he is marrying his partner of 10 years, Graham Cooper, in April. He also says that Diana is the only one woman who knew he was gay for many...

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Anderson Cooper Has Muted Donald Trump on Twitter to Keep Himself Sane: WATCH

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Ben Carson: Slaves Were 'Immigrants' Coming to 'a Land of Dreams and Opportunity' - WATCH

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