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**Response to Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
on Recognition of Foreign Marriages Bill 2014**

17th July 2014

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal & Constitutional Affairs Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Secretary,

We the members of The Ovulation Method Research and Reference Centre of Australia Ltd make the following submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee concerning the Recognition of Foreign Marriages Bill 2014 introduced by the Greens into the Senate.

This Bill seeks to recognise only one type of overseas marriage, that of same-sex couples. We ask the Senate to oppose the Bill on the following grounds:

- There are other types of marriages which Australia does not recognise because they are also contrary to Australian marriage law, such as underage and polygamous marriages.
- Not only would this Bill create an inconsistency in Australian law, it would also redefine marriage – a matter which the Australian Parliament debated and voted to reject, in line with the views of a majority of Australians, in 2012.
- Such an attempt to introduce same-sex marriage to Australia, by creating an inconsistency in Australian law, is an abuse of the democratic system.
- We wholeheartedly concur with the current definition of marriage as being between a male and a female – a relationship which can produce children who are vital to our society's future and way of life.
- As the only form of relationship upon which society can depend to naturally achieve this vital necessity, we believe that marriage between a man and woman deserves special recognition and should not be devalued as simply another committed, loving relationship.
- Whilst it is necessary that our parliament regulate marriage, for the administration of justice, it does not have the jurisdiction to overturn a natural institution.
- To redefine marriage, as is the indirect aim of this Bill, would involve the parliament in exceeding its legitimate authority as the elected representatives of the people of Australia.

We earnestly request that the Senate reject the Recognition of Foreign Marriages Bill 2014.

Yours sincerely,

Kerry Bourke
Executive Director
on behalf of the members of
The Ovulation Method Research & Reference Centre of Australia Ltd