

**ASSOCIATION of AUSTRALIAN**  
**CHRISTADELPHIAN ECCLESIAS INC**

18<sup>th</sup> April 2012

Committee Secretary  
Social Policy and Legal Affairs Committee  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

Dear Committee Secretary,

RE: The Inquiry into the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2012 and the Marriage Amendment Bill 2012

The Association of Australian Christadelphian Ecclesias represents more than 100 Christadelphian Ecclesias (churches) in Australia. We thank you for this opportunity to provide a submission for your consideration.

As the representative body, the AACE registers with the Federal Attorney-General's Office, marriage celebrants who are members of Christadelphian Ecclesias. Our wedding ceremonies are conducted according to the provisions of the Marriage Act (1961) and under the rites of the Australian Christadelphian Ecclesia.

We appreciate the provision of Section 47 of the Act which allows our marriage celebrants, as ministers of religion, to exercise their individual conscience in accepting or declining to solemnise the marriage of any couple. We firmly believe and uphold that the Bible teaches scriptural marriage is only between a man and woman for life and our marriage celebrants will continue to conduct our ceremonies on that basis.

In providing this submission we request that the clear intent of Section 47 in its current form be preserved.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Watson  
Chairman