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The Standing Committee
On Legal and Constitutional
Matters
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600

RECEIVED
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BY: LACA

Submission No. 49
Date Received

27th November 2006

Dear Sir/Madam

INQUIRY INTO OLDER PEOPLE

I was given a copy of an invitation to make a submission to your committee. I am a 65 year old male and would like to make a submission about one of the topics listed.

I refer to the **discrimination** of same sex couples in the area of reversionary pension benefits for retired Federal Government employees who are receiving ComSuper superannuation payments. This discrimination is enshrined in legislation. I understand that the Superannuation Act 1976 Sections 8A and 8B define the eligibility requirements and same sex couples are excluded. The matter has been raised by many people with the Minister for Finance. Although there seems to be general agreement that this discrimination is wrong and needs correction nothing happens. No believable reasons for delay have been given by the Minister and his support staff who tell people who enquire that the matter is very complicated and it will be some time before it is resolved.

I am aware that a number of submissions on this issue have been made to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission's current inquiry into Financial Entitlements for Same Sex Couples.

Incidentally I am also in receipt of superannuation payments from the UK and they have no problem with this matter. When I enquired they sent me the forms and dealt with them efficiently when I returned them.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Yours truly

Anthony J Walsh