

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

Question No. 227

Senator Bartlett asked the following question at the hearing on 14 February 2006:

Has any advice been provided to government in recent months by HREOC regarding areas in which structural discrimination against same-sex couples can be removed at a federal level?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

While HREOC has not advised the Government in recent months on the topic of same sex discrimination, in March 2005 the Commission held discussions with the Chief of the Australian Defence Forces (ADF), and in June 2005 with the Minister for Defence, in relation to providing serving ADF personnel in same-sex relationships access to the same entitlements in respect of their partner as those available to ADF personnel in heterosexual relationships.