



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

**Classification, Human Rights and
Copyright Division**

08/9809
11 June 2008

Mr Peter Hallahan
Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Hallahan

I refer to the estimates hearing of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee on 26 May 2008.

During the course of the hearing I answered questions from Senator Barnett in relation to interdependency:

Senator BARNETT—You are the relevant officer. You must be aware whether there have been any discussions or any modelling prepared or if you have had any instructions to advise the government as to whether the law can be broadened to include not just those in a sexual relationship but those in a non-sexual interdependent relationship.

Ms Lynch—Senator, I think there may have been discussions about the issue of interdependency and the difference between interdependency and same-sex couples but in terms of doing modelling for this government or for any tasking, I am not aware of that but I would just need to check.

I have since been reminded that advice on interdependency has been provided to this government.

Yours sincerely

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Classification Human Rights and Copyright Division

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