

Dear Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee,

I would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to make a submission into the Evidence Amendment Bill 2008 Inquiry. I fully support the inclusion of same-sex partners in the definition of "de facto partner" in the Bill.

This amendment bill will ensure same-sex couples are treated equally with heterosexual couples in relation to criminal trials where a partner may be called as a witness.

The definition of de facto partner in this amendment reflects existing state and territory definitions, which include same-sex partners. It will ensure federal and state courts will apply more uniform rules in trials.

Yours sincerely,