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Subject: Submission to the Evidence Amendment Bill 2008

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,

Claire Watkins