

TO Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

RE EVIDENCE AMENDMENT BILL 2008

FROM Rev David O. Paech
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Following are some of the concerns I have re the above BILL

The presumption made here is that legally registered married couples are no different to not legally registered de facto couples. In fact they are.

I can see people making use of this proposed provision to avoid giving evidence against someone simply by claiming to be in a de facto relationship. One can well imagine criminals making good use of such a loophole!

A criminal could induce a person to become a de facto partner to protect himself or herself. And that inducement could come in all sorts of ways.

It seems a quite incredible Bill to me. To me possible implications seem not to have been thought through.

Thank you for this opportunity

David O. Paech