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Submission to **“The Evidence Amendment Bill,2008”**  
from Mr. Robert & Mrs.Dahlis Willcocks

We are very concerned & distressed that a country, with a Christian heritage such as ours, is contemplating replacing all references to “married couples, husband, wife & spouse” with the terms, “couple relationships & partner”, thereby treating same-sex relationships as equivalent to marriage.

In pandering to the completely unreasonable claims of the homosexual lobby, this is in fact an attack on the institution of marriage and the traditional family, but the grim lesson of history is that no nation has ever survived the disintegration of its family life.

Marriage is far more than a social contract between one man and one woman, to the exclusion of all others, publicly and voluntarily entered into for life. Marriage is a Divine Ordinance, established by God, for the welfare of human society and the propogation of children. ,and has both **legal & moral responsibilities**. The sanctity of marriage and the family is the natural and fundamental unit of society.

Until now marriage has been given special treatment in Federal law because of the **great benefits** marriage makes to society. It provides the **best and most stable environment** for raising children,with two parents providing complementary male & female role models. The effect of this Bill would be to **reduce** the status of marriage to that of a same-sex relationship.

Same-sex relationships cannot produce children, they lack the commitment & permanence of marriage, they provide the worst possible and least appropriate environment for fostering children and, far from being a benefit to society, they should be seen as **undermining** society. To grant them the same rights as married couples when they have none of the legal or moral responsibilities of married couples, would be grossly unfair and unreasonable.

**Since marriage is a life-long,legally committed union of husband & wife,spouses should be protected from being forced to give evidence against each other. On the other hand,non-married relationships are often casual,temporary and lack any long-term,legally-binding commitment, and do not merit such protection. As well, criminals could & would exploit such a law by claiming that witnesses against them were in a defacto or same-sex relationship with them to avoid an associate giving evidence.**