

To: The Chairman,
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
From: Glenice Vladich

I am opposed to The Evidence Amendment Bill 2008 on the grounds that it will increase injustice.

In a changing social climate in which cohabitation, same sex relationships, group marriage and polygamy are being touted as equal with marriage, this law would offer legal immunity from giving evidence in court to a wide range of people who had at one time been in a short-term relationship with the accused. Until now, the right not to give evidence has been granted by the State to married spouses whose permanent and faithful union provides social stability. It is in the State's interest to preserve that union from any repercussions to the relationship that being a party to the conviction of their spouse could entail. Other relationships should not be eligible. Justice will suffer if the guilty can refuse witnesses against them on the basis of a temporary or casual sexual relationship.

The law should therefore not be changed in the interests of justice and the married state. I look forward to your advice to this effect.