
To the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

From Don & Maureen McKenzie

Re The Evidence Amendment Bill 2008

We wish to place this short submission on record that we are exceedingly concerned about the proposed bill named above becoming part of Commonwealth Law.

Marriage is a committed union (relationship) of a man and a woman and should be protected from being forced to give evidence against each other. We do not believe non-married relationships deserve this privilege.

Under such a law there would be many opportunities for it to be exploited by say, a criminal in a court of law, to claim that a witness against them is in a de facto or same-sex relationship with them, to stop them giving evidence.

Again, the sanctity of marriage is under threat. Though there are many marriages that do break up, Australian society is still largely supported by many well-adjusted homes and families who have brought up their children within the framework of committed lives - to each other. It would be a sad day for Australia if marriage is totally undermined.

Yours faithfully
Don and Maureen McKenzie