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Dear Sir / Madam,

It has recently come to my attention that the federal Rudd government plans to amend some 100 laws to give same-sex couples almost all the rights and benefits of marriage - without the same commitment or benefit to society.

The changes as I understand in the *Family Law Amendment (De Facto Financial Matters and Other Measures) Bill 2008* would allow same-sex and other unmarried couples to access the property and maintenance provisions currently available to married couples who divorce.

Some of my concerns are as follow:

- The Family Court is already stretched with settlement of marriage break-ups - it should not be burdened with more casual de facto relationships, including same-sex relationships.
- Those entering same-sex relationships can use contracts and civil law to protect their interests. They shouldn't be treated as equivalent to married couples.

Until now in Australia, the union of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life – has been given special treatment in federal law because of the great benefits marriage bestows on society. Only marriage provides the best environment for raising children: stability plus complementary male and female role models (Mum and Dad). Men and women complement each other in marriage - benefiting each other and society.

I believe that any amendment to law to recognize in any way or form same sex or de facto relationships is treading on very thin ice. This will only be the start of many amendments until marriage has been degenerated to a point where it is worthless in the sight of *man* and the family will suffer as a result.

Please be very careful with this proposed amendment and reject it for what its worth. (An attack on family values)

Regards,