

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to add my voice in support of amendments to the Family Law Act and to recognise same-sex partners in regard to superannuation payments.

Both my gay sons are in long term relationships, living and owning property with their partners. My youngest son left a relationship a couple of years back, after more than 10 year, and his property settlement has still not been finalised. Had it gone through the family court I suspect it would long ago have been resolved.

Same sex couples should be treated no differently to anyone else in a long term relationship. It is insulting as well as discriminating to suggest that my sons' unions are less significant than heterosexual relationships, and why should they be treated differently by our laws, particularly in the areas of property settlement, guardianship of children, pensions and other government allowances?

I have seen the gay partner of a deceased person pushed to one side by the family members when it came to making funeral arrangements, their loving 27 years together ignored. Some things we cannot change in the minds of bigotted people, but we have the power to bring about equality for all couples in our laws, and without delay.

Wendy Smith