

**SUBMISSION OF MARTIN SOBEY TO THE INQUIRY OF THE SENATE
LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE INTO:**

*Family Law Amendment (De Facto Financial Matters and Other Measures) Bill 2008
[Provisions]*

I submit that the community is ready to go (and ought to go) beyond the prejudice that sees same-sex sexual relationships as different in essence or legal value from opposite-sex sexual relationships. As a result I submit that it is appropriate to treat such same-sex relationships in this Bill as recommended by the HREOC and/or proposed by the Government and not in a category with the committed relationships of unmarried sisters, for example, as the Opposition has recently suggested may be appropriate.

There is no relevant scientifically tested evidence of any valid reason for the differentiation apparently preferred by the Opposition while there certainly *is* evidence of the harm caused by such unwarranted discrimination. I write as a former supporter of the now-Opposition.

Thank you for your attention to this submission.

Martin Sobey