

Submission to;

Inquiry into the Same-Sex Relationship (Equal Treatment in Commonwealth Laws-Superannuation) Bill 2008

Please note:

- Marriage should not be subsumed into a new category of 'couple relationships';
- Marriage should be treated separately and all existing references to spouse, husband and wife should be retained in the superannuation law;
- The legislation should refer to 'marriage *and* couple relationships', 'spouse *and* partner'. Provision for same sex couples could be made under the new category of couple relationships, meaning that same sex couples can benefit from one another's superannuation without giving up all reference to marriage in the process;
- It is wrong to assume that all relationships are the same. Marriage is a uniquely committed relationship and has been shown to offer greater benefit to spouses and to children than other forms of partnership which are, by definition, less committed and therefore less stable.

Thankyou,

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