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Pastor: Rev Jim Overduin

BEd {Mus} GradDip(ThEd) BTh GradDip(Min)

21 July 2008

Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
c/o Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Honourable Members,

I am writing in opposition to the Same-Sex Relationship Bill 2008 which would devalue marriage by treating it as just another 'couple relationship' along with same-sex couples in relation to Commonwealth Superannuation Laws.

I do not agree with the replacement of references to 'married couples', 'husband', 'wife', and 'spouse' with other terms such as 'couple relationships' and 'partner' so as to treat de facto and same-sex relationships as equivalent to marriage.

Marriage as the union of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life is foundational for society and the well being of its individuals and communities. Any erosion of the status of marriage, or elevation of other relationships to that of marriage has been and will be detrimental to the health of society as a whole.

Since marriage is the only relationship that truly benefits society, only marriage partners should receive taxpayer funded benefits, not same-sex partners of judges, parliamentarians or defence personnel.

Australian society is based on Judeo-Christian principles, ethics and morality. Marriage and the family is foundational to Australian society and should not be undermined or eroded, nor should relationships that are not marriage be treated as such.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Overduin".

Pastor Jim Overduin

Member Congregations of the

