

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## Recommendation 1

**3.128** The committee recommends that the definition of 'child' within the Bill be amended to align it with the amended definition of 'child of a de facto relationship' proposed for the *Family Law Act 1975* in the amendments circulated by the Government to the Family Law Amendment (De Facto Financial Matters and Other Measures) Bill 2008 in response to a bipartisan recommendation of this committee on that bill.

## Recommendation 2

**3.129** The committee recommends that all government departments and agencies responsible for providing Commonwealth benefits be required to:

- develop and implement user-friendly initiatives and strategies to inform clients and staff of the proposed changes no later than 31 March 2009; and
- provide training to front line and other service staff to ensure that same-sex clients are not treated prejudicially or in a judgemental manner as they interact with the department or agency.

## Recommendation 3

**3.130** The committee recommends that the Government give further consideration to what administrative or regulatory mechanisms may be available to appropriately manage the impact of the reforms on same-sex couples who may have benefits reduced under the changes.

## Recommendation 4

**3.131** Subject to the above recommendations, the committee recommends that the Senate pass the Bill.