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26 January 2017

**SUBMISSION TO SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE EXPOSURE DRAFT
OF THE MARRIAGE AMENDMENT (SAME-SEX MARRIAGE) BILL
(REVISED)**

**ON BEHALF OF
THE RABBINICAL COUNCIL OF NSW INC
AND
THE RABBINICAL COUNCIL OF VICTORIA**

To: The Committee Secretary

The Senate Select Committee seeks views on the exceptions afforded to Ministers of Religion in the Exposure Draft of the Marriage Amendment (Same-Sex Marriage) Bill.

The Rabbinical Council of NSW in conjunction with The Rabbinical Council of Victoria states that Jewish law does not recognise same sex marriage and therefore its members cannot officiate at a same sex wedding. As a result the exceptions for Ministers of Religion contained in the Exposure Bill are absolutely vital and we thoroughly endorse them.

We encourage the Committee to ensure that all necessary consequential amendments are included in any bill that is brought to Parliament to ensure that Ministers of Religion, including Jewish Ministers, will not commit an offence if they refuse to officiate at same sex marriages

At the same time, we wish to affirm that we support the Marriage Act remaining the way it is.

Rabbi Eli Cohen
President of RCNSW

Rabbi Daniel Rabin
President of RCV