

**RABBINIC COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND**

**Submission to the Senate Select Committee on the Exposure Draft of the Marriage Amendment (Same-Sex Marriage) Bill.**

The Rabbinic Council of Australia and New Zealand 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 respectfully urge 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 act unlawfully if they refuse to officiate at same sex marriages.

*Rabbi Dr Benjamin Elton*

*Secretary of the Rabbinic Council of Australia and New Zealand*

*25 January 2017*