



ATTORNEY-GENERAL

CANBERRA

MC15-000798

Dr Dennis Jensen MP
Chair
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Petitions
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

17 JUN 2015

Dear Dr Jensen

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Dennis'.

Thank you for your letter of 4 June 2015 in relation to two petitions submitted for the consideration of the Standing Committee on Petitions regarding same-sex marriage. I apologise for the delay in responding to the Committee in relation to these petitions.

The *Marriage Act 1961* defines marriage as 'the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life'. The Prime Minister has indicated that any change to the Marriage Act on the issue of same-sex marriage is a matter for the Australian Parliament as a whole. Any private member's bill on this issue would be a matter for consideration by the Coalition Party Room.

Thank you for drawing the petitions to my attention.

Yours faithfully

(George Brandis)