

Australian Christian Lobby
21.8.14

Date: 20 August 2014 11:38:05 am AEST
To: Lyle Shelton
Subject: Hague Convention

Senator Evans made this comment on debates on the 1985 amendment bill, which is the bill which gave effect to the Hague Convention:

Senator Teague also raised the question—a good old chestnut for those opposite-of the recognition to be afforded to so-called homosexual» marriages celebrated outside Australia. Let me stress at the outset that neither I nor the Attorney-General's Department is aware of any overseas country or jurisdiction that, in fact, recognises such unions, although suggestions to this effect appear periodically in the Press. Even if such were the case I confirm the honourable senator's understanding that the provisions of Part VA would not extend to a homosexual union. Marriage under Australian law, and that includes the law as to overseas marriages is, as honourable senators have pointed out, 'the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life'. That is also the internationally accepted meaning of the term and I have no doubt whatsoever that the framers of the Hague Convention did not intend it to apply to homosexual relationships.

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