



15^h September 2008
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
Department of the Senate
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Dear Committee Secretary,

**Inquiry into the Same-Sex Relationships (Equal Treatment in Commonwealth Laws—
General Law Reform) Bill 2008**

The Community and Public Sector Union (PSU Group) has more than 60, 000 members in the Australian Public Service, the Australian Government public sector, the ACT Public Service, the Northern Territory Public Service, and other sectors including the telecommunications sector, call centres, employment services and radio and television broadcasting.

In 2008, it is unacceptable that some individuals and couples are not afforded full recognition and protection under Commonwealth legislation. The CPSU commends the Federal Government for introducing this Bill and leading the way in ensuring that those in same-sex relationships receive equal treatment.

The CPSU supports the amendment of all Commonwealth legislation to ensure that same-sex couples enjoy the same status as opposite-sex couples. The CPSU particularly commends the amendments to superannuation legislation that give same-sex couples access to the same entitlements as other Australians.

This Inquiry and the changes proposed in the Bill will form a sturdy foundation on which to build more tolerant and accepting Australia.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Jones
CPSU National Secretary