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Dear Committee Secretary,

I would like to make a submission in support of the Same-Sex Relationships (Equal Treatment in Commonwealth Laws - General Law Reform) Bill 2008. Although I could provide you with examples of individuals who are fulfilled living in same sex relationships, this should not be necessary to justify a bill that is long overdue.

This Bill will ensure that same-sex couples and their children will be afforded equality in practical entitlements that most Australians take for granted. No Australian should experience discrimination simply because of who they love or the sexuality of their parents. Therefore, I fully support the inclusion of same-sex couples and families in various "de facto", "family" and "child" definitions in federal law.

Along with equal rights and benefits, aspects of the reforms will also impose new responsibilities on same-sex couples in areas such as social security. I strongly believe that there should be an extensive public education campaign to ensure all lesbians and gay men are adequately prepared for the changes. This campaign should also ensure Commonwealth service providers and professionals who are administering the new laws are aware of the changes and do not discriminate against same-sex couples and their children.

This Bill is a welcome and overdue opportunity in Australia's history to correct a long standing injustice. I look forward to seeing these reforms passed through Parliament as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,