

8 June 2006

Same-Sex Inquiry
Human Rights Unit
Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission
GPO Box 5218
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Commissioner

SAME-SEX: SAME ENTITLEMENTS

I am writing in relation to the National Inquiry into Discrimination against People in Same-Sex Relationships. The New South Wales Law Reform Commission is just completing a review of the *Property (Relationships) Act 1984*. The Commission published a Discussion Paper as part of its review in April 2002 (copy enclosed). The Commission deferred work on this project for a considerable period of time after it was advised that New South Wales was planning to refer the power to regulate de facto relationships to the Commonwealth. When it became clear that there may be some delay in the passage of Commonwealth legislation relating to de facto relationships, and that the Commonwealth legislation might be limited to heterosexual relationships, the Commission decided to proceed to produce a final Report. This Report focuses primarily on same-sex relationships, as well as close personal relationships. The Commission's Report has detailed discussion on financial adjustments following the breakdown of a de facto same-sex relationship, financial agreements between parties to a relationship, the relevance of domestic violence on property adjustment, as well as parent/child relationships.

The Commission will be forwarding a copy of its final Report to the New South Wales Attorney General in early July 2006. I will ensure a copy is sent to you as soon as it becomes publicly available.

Yours sincerely



Peter Hennessy
Executive Director

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