



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA · THE SENATE

SENATOR LYN ALLISON
Leader, Australian Democrats
Senator for Victoria

Inquiry into the Provisions of the Same-Sex: Same Entitlements Bill 2007

Terms of reference

Following the decision on 16 August 2007 not to refer the Same-Sex: Same Entitlements Bill 2007 to a Senate committee, Senators Allison, Bartlett, Murray and Stott Despoja determined to establish an ad hoc committee to inquire into the provisions of the Bill, including the cost of implementing it if it were enacted. The Committee will include senators and/or members from both major political parties, with Senator Allison as Chair. It will receive submissions from interested individuals and groups up until 3 September and will report by 10 September. It will hold a half-day public hearing at Parliament House during the first week of September.

Written submissions are invited and should be addressed to:

Senator Lyn Allison
Senator for Victoria
62 Wellington Pde
East Melbourne VIC 3002

The closing date for the receipt of submissions is Monday 3 September 2007.

The Committee prefers that submissions be made electronically as an attached document. They should be emailed to senator.allison@aph.gov.au

Submissions will be made public only after a decision by the Committee. Submissions will be made public on the internet and made available to other interested parties on request, including the media.

Following consideration of submissions, the Committee will hold a public hearing in Canberra. The Committee will consider all submissions and may invite individuals and organisations to give evidence at a public hearing.

For further information not provided below, contact:

Senator Lyn Allison
62 Wellington Pde
East Melbourne VIC 3002

Phone: (03) 9416 1880

Fax: (03) 9417 1690

E-mail: senator.allison@aph.gov.au

Documents relevant to this Inquiry

The following documents might be of assistance to you in making a submission to this Inquiry:

- [Same-Sex: Same Entitlements Bill 2007](#)
- [Explanatory Memorandum for the Same-Sex: Same Entitlements Bill 2007](#)
- [Second Reading Speech for the Same-Sex: Same Entitlements Bill 2007](#)
- [Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Report *Same-Sex: Same Entitlements*](#)

How to make a submission

1. A submission may be as short or as long as you like. It may contain facts, opinions, arguments or recommendations. Supporting documents may be attached.
2. If possible please provide submissions by email. The preferred format is Microsoft Word. Otherwise please type or write clearly in black ink on A4 paper.
3. Submissions must include your name, phone number and postal address so we can verify them. If it is the submission of an organisation, say so clearly. Show the signatory's position and say at what level the submission was authorised.
4. If you want your submission to be kept confidential, please say so clearly at the top or in a covering note. If you want part of the submission to be confidential, please put that part on a separate page(s).
5. If you make a submission, the Committee may invite you to give evidence at a public hearing. A submission made to the Inquiry will **NOT** be protected by parliamentary privilege and nor will evidence given at a hearing.

Witnesses appearing before the Committee

1. **Parliamentary Privilege:** The proceedings of the Committee will **NOT** be accorded the same protection as proceedings before a Senate committee. Parliamentary privilege will **NOT** apply.
2. **Opening Procedures and Calling of Witnesses:** When it is your turn to give evidence you will be asked by the Chair to state your full name and the capacity in which you appear before the Committee.
3. **Examination of Witnesses:** Before inviting members of the committee to ask questions, the Chair will give you the opportunity to make a short statement (usually about five minutes) in support of the submission. Questions will then be directed to you by the Chair and members of the committee. These questions are designed to clarify aspects of your submission, to seek information relevant to matters within the Committee's terms of reference and to allow you to amplify any points made in your submission.
4. **Additional Material:** Should you consider that you cannot answer a question or provide information at the hearing, you may seek permission to provide a written answer or additional material at a later date.
5. **Recording of Evidence:** The proceedings of the public hearing will be recorded. A proof copy of the transcript of evidence will be forwarded to you for examination and correction where necessary. Only transcription errors may be corrected.