

Dear Senator Allison;

I welcome the establishment of your Inquiry and do hope that you might be able to gain a reversal of the Howard government's decision to defer this Bill indefinitely.

In my case, I have been living in a continuous same sex relationship for the past 18 years during which time we have established a retail company, joint bank accounts, shared a mortgage and shared all of life's ups and downs that can be expected over that lengthy period. In view of my situation, I am sure that you will agree that we fully meet the requirements to be recognised as an 'interdependent relationship', particularly when it comes to DFRDB entitlements.

In essence, my partner will receive nothing when I die whereas a married partner will receive a 5/8th's widows pension. Notwithstanding many promises to correct this anomaly, the government has continued to defer indefinitely any decision on this matter.

I am a recipient of a continuing DFRDB pension, after having served in the RAAF for 21 years which included a 12 month tour in S Vietnam and retiring as a Wing Commander in 1986.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend your Inquiry but I welcome inclusion of my circumstances in your considerations.

I look forward to the outcome of your Inquiry.