



THE SENATE
CANBERRA ACT 2600

29 July 2011

Reverend John D Harrower OAM
Bishop of Tasmania
Anglican Diocese of Tasmania
GPO Box 748
Hobart TAS 7001

Dear Reverend Harrow,

Thank you for your letter dated 26 July 2011 regarding the Anglican Diocese of Tasmania's view on the Definition of Marriage.

It is the view of the Australian Government, that couples who have a mutual commitment to a shared life should be able to have their relationships recognised.

Although the Australian Government does not support same-sex marriage, it does support a nationally consistent framework for relationships recognition to be implemented by the States and Territories.

My personal opinion and belief is that there is a need for an amendment to the Marriage Act to ensure that Australia remains a country that actively promotes equality, fairness and dignity for all citizens. I will support the Caucus position in any vote; however, I will work inside and outside the ALP for an amendment to the Marriage Act.

It is my belief that marriage is a commitment between two people who love each other and who wish to celebrate their commitment to one another in front of family and friends.

Once again, thank you for your correspondence regarding this sensitive issue.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Urquhart
Labor Senator for Tasmania