



2 December 2008

Legislative Council
Standing Committee on Law and Justice

**INQUIRY INTO ADOPTION BY
SAME SEX COUPLES**

The Minister for Community Services, the Hon Linda Burney MP, has asked the NSW Parliament's Standing Committee on Law and Justice to conduct an inquiry into whether NSW adoption laws should be amended to allow same sex couples to adopt.

Committee Chair, the Hon Christine Robertson MLC said, "This inquiry will examine whether the law should be changed to allow same sex couples to adopt children in NSW. Among other matters, the Committee will consider whether adoption by same sex couples would further the objectives of the *Adoption Act 2000*."

"The Committee will also look at the experience in other Australian and overseas jurisdictions that allow adoption of children by same sex couples", Ms Robertson said.

"There are important law reform issues at play here, and we are keen to hear from as many people as possible," Ms Robertson said. "We are inviting submissions addressing the terms of reference, which are due by 13 February 2009. We expect to hold public hearings in late February."

Submissions can be submitted via email to lawandjustice@parliament.nsw.gov.au or faxed to (02) 9230 3416 or mailed to:

The Director
Standing Committee on Law and Justice,
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000.

The terms of reference for the inquiry and information about making a submission can be obtained from the Committee Secretariat on (02) 9230 2976 or via the Committee's website at: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lawandjustice .

*For further information please contact the Committee Secretariat on
9230 2976 or for comment, please contact the Hon Christine
Robertson MLC, Chair of the Committee on (02) 9230 2971*