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***** MEDIA RELEASE *****

08 November 2007

Same Sex Couple Superannuation

Labor welcomes the announcement last night by the **Environment** Minister, Mr Turnbull, on the same sex couple **superannuation**.

The extension of a reversionary pension benefit to same sex couples in Commonwealth government funds has long been called for by Labor.

The Howard government has been bitterly opposed, up to now, to adopt any of the 58 recommendations outlined in a human rights report in June.

Only Federal Labor is committed to reviewing the HREOC recommendations once in government and implementing changes.

That means ending discrimination in the areas of taxation, superannuation, social security benefits, the Medicare Safety Net, immigration, veteran's entitlements and all other areas (aside from the Marriage Act), not just the one area announced by the Environment Minister.

Labor has moved and/or supported amendments to superannuation legislation year after year in the parliament.

The Howard government has year after year voted no on every occasion.

It is a sign of desperation that the public announcement was made by the Environment Minister – not the Prime Minister, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer or Finance Minister, with just over 2 weeks to the election.

The adoption of Labor policy is welcome.

For more information contact Senator Nick Sherry 0418 482 807