



Inland Revenue
Te Tari Taake

POLICY ADVICE DIVISION

National Office

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New Zealand*

20 February 2002

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Mr Steve A R Wilton
Business Director
Forest Enterprises Ltd
PO Box 128
Masterton

Dear Mr Wilton

Property (Relationships) Amendment Act

Your letter of 8 February 2002 to the Ministry of Justice was referred to me because the responsibility for amendments to the Income Tax Act 1994 lies with Inland Revenue.

Inland Revenue is currently participating in a project to identify all provisions in the New Zealand statutes that have the effect of discriminating against or in favour of de facto and same-sex couples. The intention of the wider project is to achieve neutral laws on relationships.

However, simple changes to definitions in the Revenue Acts to include de facto and same-sex couples so that they are recognised legally in the same way that married couples are, would sometimes be to the advantage of de facto and same-sex couples and sometimes to their disadvantage. It is therefore necessary to carefully consider the effect of each of the affected provisions to ensure that both equity and appropriate policy outcomes would be achieved. This will involve consultation with interested parties in accordance with the standard policy development process.

The process of identifying the affected provisions, of which the shareholding rules in section OB3 of the Income Tax Act 1994 is one, is well under way. Based on our current timetable, it is envisaged that an issues paper could be available for release by the end of the year. We will provide a copy of the issues paper to you when it is released.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Nutsford'.

Mike Nutsford
Manager, Tax & Social Policy