



5 September 2006

Mr Helmet Graupner

15 JAHRE RECHTSKOMITEE LAMBDA

From far away Australia I send greetings and best wishes for the celebration that will take place in the Federal Parliament of the Republic of Austria. I offer felicitations on the achievements of the Rechtskomitee Lambda (RKL) during the past fifteen years.

Great progress has been made in Austria and Australia in legal reform affecting sexual minorities. Such reform has only occurred because good citizens, irrespective of their own sexuality, have insisted on the removal of discrimination from the law on this subject. It is important for the GLBTI minority to acknowledge, on such an occasion, the support they have had from politicians of diverse political persuasion, most of whom have been heterosexual. Little could be achieved by sexual minorities, acting alone.

I pay my respects to the Federal Parliament of Austria. My Chambers in Canberra are opposite the Federal Parliament of Australia. Both our countries adhere to the rule of law and respect for human rights. Much remains to be achieved on the law and sexuality. But for the accomplishments to date, I express honour and praise.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Kirby".

MICHAEL KIRBY

The Hon Justice Michael Kirby AC CMG

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