



**Legislative Council
Standing Committee on Social Issues**

INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

29 January 2013

NSW is moving towards considering same sex marriage law through an inquiry undertaken by the Social Issues Committee. The Committee will primarily inquire and report on the legislative framework between federal and state laws on the issue of same sex marriage, and the validity of passing such laws at a state level.

“Although the debate on same sex marriage raises a range of personal, societal and political questions, the Committee’s main focus is whether the State can legislate to legalise same sex marriage and the impacts of such a law” said the Hon Niall Blair MLC, Chair of the Social Issues Committee. “Further, whether there are any legal issues on the rights of any party married under such a law, in other States and Federal jurisdiction, and the rights of parties upon dissolution of the marriage”, Mr Blair said.

The response of other jurisdictions in Australia and overseas to demands for marriage equality, and models of legislation in places where same sex unions are recognised will also be explored by the Committee. “Within Australia, Tasmania and South Australia, have had bills introduced to permit same sex marriage. Whether such state based laws can operate alongside federal laws is an issue that needs to be examined”, Mr Blair said.

Mr Blair continued: “The significant number of responses received by similar inquiries in the Australian Parliament indicates the relevance of this matter to Australians today. Similarly, we are anticipating a large number of submissions for this inquiry across all groups and individuals”.

The inquiry was referred to the Committee by the Premier, the Hon Barry O’Farrell MP.

The closing date for submissions is Friday 1 March 2013. Submissions should be lodged online at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/samesexmarriage.

For more information, including terms of reference and guidelines for making a submission, please visit the Committee’s website: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/samesexmarriage.