

INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

Organisation: Hindu Council of Australia

Date received: 1/03/2013



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A submission from The Hindu Council of Australia to NSW Parliament Committee on Same Sex Marriage

Marriage is one of the sixteen Sansakaras (rituals) of Hindu Dharma (religion) and includes having a relationship between man and woman with specific purpose to have children (as during marriage priest and all family elders give blessing for kids) so that human race can survive and its social and cultural traditions continue.

Marriage in Hinduism is said to fulfil three objectives: Prajaa, Dharma, and Rati. In marriage, Prajaa is children of one's family, Dharma is fulfilment of responsibilities, and Rati is companionship as friends and mutual pleasure as lovers. Hindus believe that married life is an opportunity for two persons to grow from life partners into soul mates and meet their obligation (of producing kids) to society.

Though we fully support the view that the same sex couples should have same human rights and civil rights –property rights, privileges and protection- as available to heterosexual couples but the marriage of same sex cannot biologically produce kids, cannot extend family tree and cannot continue cultural traditions. Hence such relationship should be given some name but not the “marriage”.