

**Submission  
No 456**

## **INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW**

**Name:** Mrs Anne Robards

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I would like to make a submission to the Social Issues Committee regarding the proposed NSW bill to legalise same sex marriage.

From the beginning of recorded history, all societies and cultures have recognised marriage as being between a man and a woman. Marriage is not withheld from any Australian citizen provided they meet the very sensible requirements of the Marriage Act. They cannot be closely related, for example, or currently married to another person. And for plainly obvious biological reasons, they must be of the opposite sex in order to procreate children, who can then be raised in an environment that provides a model for male and female behaviour in the community. The issue of children is central to the debate on same sex marriage, for the logical outcome of marriage is the desire to raise children, whether by natural means or assisted technology or adoption. Evidence shows that children do best on all developmental indicators when raised in a family that has a mother and a father who are in a lifelong exclusive relationship. To deny children the right to a secure traditional family environment is tantamount to abuse of the most basic human right, and I believe the rights of children must take precedence over the demands of same sex couples who wish to change the definition of marriage. We have seen the results in recent decades of social engineering, done with the best of intentions, in the forced adoption and stolen generation issues. Let us not force upon another generation of Australian children a social experiment, to appease a vociferous minority, for which we will later be held accountable.