

INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

Organisation: Australian Federation of Civil Celebrants Inc (AFCC)

Date received: 22/02/2013



The National Association of Professional Celebrants

New South Wales Legislative Council Standing Committee on Social Issues
re: "Same Sex Marriage Law in NSW" (Inquiry)

SUBMISSION

Australia's largest civil celebrant association, the Australian Federation of Civil Celebrants (AFCC) endorses its already stated position on reforms to marriage legislation to provide all couples access to marriage. In 2012, the AFCC National Committee ratified and published a policy in support of 'Marriage Equality'.

AFCC member celebrants have for many years been conducting commitment ceremonies for couples unable to legally wed and are aware of their desire to be accorded equal rights under the law.

As the leading professional association for celebrants in Australia, the AFCC, therefore, is committed to Marriage Equality and keenly awaits legislative changes that would see the end of discrimination for couples not currently afforded the right to be legally married.

Our preference is for reform at a national level, but we support legislative changes currently under consideration in New South Wales and in other State and Territory jurisdictions.

According to the AFCC, Marriage Equality will:

- Remove legally-entrenched discrimination against couples currently unable to marry:
- Allow all couples in a committed, loving relationship to be afforded the same opportunity to legally and formally declare their love and commitment to each other: and
- Strengthen the institution of marriage by re-affirming its core values of love and commitment, rather than defining marriage by whom it excludes."

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National President

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21 February 2013