

**Submission  
No 108**

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

**Name:** Mr Paul Russell

**Date received:** 6/02/2013

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To Whom it may Concern,

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to submit my views to the NSW Inquiry into Same Sex Marriage.

As the father of 4 children in a 28 year long heterosexual marriage and an Evangelical Christian, I am concerned that the values and opinions of those of my social group is clearly presented to the committee.

Firstly, marriage recognises the committed union of a man and a woman to encourage the stable social context needed for resulting children to be raised to responsible adulthood. Mothers and fathers parent differently, and children need both approaches in order to develop a balanced identity. That is why marriage should remain a union of a man and a woman.

I do not see the rationale or necessity for same sex couple's unions to be called a marriage! Same sex unions are already recognised in law, and the right to insurance etc is already equal. I don't care what you call their union, but in the historically Anglo-Australian society, marriage is a specific Judeo-Christian construct, that precludes same sex unions.

Secondly, I believe that marriage should be a national/federal, not state issue, under Australia's Constitution – so a NSW bill relating to marriage or “same sex marriage” would be invalid and unconstitutional. Different state marriage laws would lead to confusion and uncertainty. Marriage issues should be decided for the whole of Australia in the federal parliament. Apart from the potential unconstitutionality of the State decision, a State by State approach would lead to inevitable legal challenges where residents of one State that does not recognise same sex marriage being charged with discrimination when the couple move to another State.

Thirdly, opinion polls with loaded or simplistic questions are not a reliable guide to public opinion. Only a mandatory all voter referendum, where voters receive a booklet explaining both sides, can indicate their true views.

Please consider my views and those of many other Christians before further jeopardising the social fabric of our already deeply dysfunctional society.

Yours Sincerely,

Paul Russell

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