

**Submission
No 748**

INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

Name: Mrs Bronwyn Edney

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I would ask that the current definition of marriage as between one man and one woman, committed to stay together for life, be retained. I believe that this is a distinct type of relationship, different to de facto relationships, whether heterosexual, homosexual, or embracing more than two people. While I would hope that these relationships will never be discriminated against by our laws (and in cases they may need changing to achieve this), I don't believe that these relationships should be called "marriage". One woman and one man committed to each other for life remains the ideal way to raise children and as such should still be upheld as something different, even though marriages fail often. We still should be aiming high! This is NOT an equality issue, or an issue of human rights. There have always been people who could not get married in our society and always will be whether we change the definition of marriage or not. Some will not have the opportunity as no one wants to marry them, some will not be in a financial position to get married, or their families forbid it, or at the moment and possibly in the future our law will forbid it still. We do not need to be married, or even have the right to be married (which currently everyone has anyway!) to be fully human or fully included in our society. There is NO need to change the definition of marriage. It does not achieve anything - ways to publically declare that you are committed to your partner can still be made possible, even lifelong commitments that have all the legal ramifications of being married can be brought into being without changing the definition of marriage that our society has upheld for so long.