

## INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

I do not support the redefinition of marriage for the following reasons.

Firstly, once the definition of marriage is changed from man and woman there will be groups aside from homosexual couples campaigning to alter that definition further to also include polygamous communities. This is not a mere assumption; I have seen polygamous communities stating they will definitely do this. The issue with this is essentially, once the definition is initially changed, where will it end?

Marriage is something that has been recognized for centuries as a biological union between a man and woman. Ideally, this union allows for procreation in a natural way. If the definition of marriage is changed, I believe there would be an increase in the number of homosexual couples raising children. I do not agree this is the best environment to raise children in. I believe that the two different sexes are designed to complement each other. I think this union is something that cannot be replicated. I believe a masculine and feminine influence with the biological parents is the ideal environment to raise a child in. Changing the definition of marriage would, I believe, decrease the occurrence of biological parenting. Essentially, a key question we need to ask is how important is the role of both a father and a mother in the development of a child? Many adopted children, or children conceived with anonymous sperm donors grow up wanting to meet their biological parent/s. Redefining marriage would devalue the importance of a child knowing and growing up with biological parents. Does a child not have the right to, where possible, grow up with their biological parents?

Homosexual couples have the same rights as a married heterosexual couple, in a civil union. In areas where marriage has been redefined to include same-sex couples those who oppose the redefinition are seen to be discriminatory. This is a serious issue, because both freedom of speech and freedom of religion are suppressed. It would be a terrible thing if we did not have the freedom to express what we believe to be important and the freedom to practice and stand up for what we believe to be right.