

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

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To: **Social Issues Committee**

On: **Same-Sex Marriage**

Please consider the following:

1. Two men or two women cannot produce a child of union because they cannot procreate.
2. Mothers and fathers parent differently, and children need both approaches in order to develop a balanced identity. Two men or two women cannot bring up a child, providing both mum and dad role models.
3. Marriage is about more than just love. In the bible, Jesus Christ was very clear that marriage is between a man and a woman. When asked, he quoted from Genesis, the first book in the Bible. In Matthew 19: 4-5, he said: "Haven't you read that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'?"
4. Marriage is a federal, not state, issue under Australia's Constitution – so a NSW bill relating to marriage or "same sex marriage" would be invalid and unconstitutional.
5. Different state marriage laws would lead to confusion and uncertainty. Marriage issues should be decided for the whole of Australia in the federal parliament.
6. Opinion polls with loaded or simplistic questions are not a reliable guide to public opinion. Only a referendum, where voters receive a booklet explaining both sides, can indicate their true views.
7. 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.

This is why I firmly believe marriage should remain a union of a man and a woman.

Peter Hards