

INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

Name: Revd Dr Michael Giffin

Date received: 12/02/2013

12 February 2013

Standing Committee on Social Issues
NSW Parliament House
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Standing Committee on Social Issues,

Re: Legislative Council Inquiry – Same Sex Marriage Law in NSW.

Here is my submission to the Legislative Council Inquiry.

1. Background

- I am an ordained Anglican priest—male, 59 years of age, and celibate—who has been associated with the gay and lesbian community all my adult life.
- I am an advocate of equal-opportunity and anti-discrimination, as far as gay and lesbian people and couples are concerned; however, I believe the issue of same-sex marriage is fundamentally different.
- I have many gay and lesbian friends and know a great deal about male–male relationships and female–female relationships.
- I suspect the issue of same-sex marriage is not important to the average gay and lesbian person or couple. In fact, I do not personally know of any gay or lesbian person or couple advocating for same-sex marriage. They are too clear-sighted and have better things to do.

2. Same-sex marriage

- I believe the same-sex marriage lobby is knowingly and intentionally promoting same-sex marriage as an equal-opportunity and anti-discrimination issue.
- I believe same-sex marriage is not about equal-opportunity or anti-discrimination. It is a symbolic issue driven by cultural elites and privileged minorities who apparently have nothing better to do than further their sociological and political agendas.
- I believe that—under Australia's application of common law—same-sex relationships are already regarded as de facto relationships and already have the same legal protection as any de facto relationship. Put another way, a same-sex couple already has the same rights under Australia's application of common law as Julia Gillard and Tim Mathieson. Why does a minority of same-sex couples want more rights than the current prime minister and her partner?
- Same-sex couples can already: have commitment ceremonies, register as partners with Centrelink, set up joint trust funds, set up business together, obtain mortgages and loans together, obtain tax relief through income-splitting, obtain visas to bring their homosexual partners and relatives into Australia permanently, obtain assisted fertility (if female), obtain surrogate wombs (if male), and foster and adopt children. This is only the beginning.
- I encourage every same-sex couple to consider the legal repercussions of their relationship. I remind them they need to make their wills in favour of each other in case they die, nominate each other as binding superannuation beneficiaries, make a cohabitation agreement in case they separate, and above all, go to a lawyer or an accountant for advice. It is unnecessary to involve either State or Federal Parliament in any of these considerations.
- The breakdown of a same-sex relationship is just as prevalent, and is just as messy, as the separation or divorce of a heterosexual couple.

3. Male sexuality

- There is overwhelming evidence that—whether heterosexual or homosexual—male sexuality is different from female sexuality.
- In western society—at least since the story of Adam and Eve was first told—the ideal social unit has always revolved around a monogamous male–female relationship, established for the purposes of procreation and what the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer* refers to as mutual society, help, and comfort.
- Reality tells us this ideal is not easy to achieve, let alone maintain, but the institution of marriage has always revolved around the ideal, and the ideal should not be abandoned simply because it is difficult, or because a minority wants to challenge the ideal.
- Politicians such as Malcolm Turnbull in Australia, and David Cameron in Britain, are advocating virtuous, monogamous, and committed homosexual relationships. Apart from the fact that neither Turnbull nor Cameron is homosexual—and it is not appropriate for either of them to pontificate about or promote an ideal homosexual lifestyle—there is something oddly undemocratic about heterosexual politicians attempting to socially-engineer same-sex couples in their image, and, by analogy, proscribe how same-sex couples ought to view themselves.
- The questions here are: Should homosexual couples be socially-engineered in a way that forces them to mimic the ideal heterosexual relationship, even when heterosexuals have a hard time fulfilling that ideal? Is it reasonable to ask a man within a male–male relationship to mimic the ideal heterosexual relationship, even when a man within a male–female relationship has a hard time doing this?
- My experience tells me that male–male relationships are overwhelmingly open and consciously promiscuous, even when one or another or both partners pretend to be monogamous to their families, friends, or society at large. Male–male couples who say they are monogamous are usually lying or in denial.

4. Marriage competency

- It may be true that heterosexual marriage is filled with double standards but that is no reason to introduce homosexual double standards into the equation. If the same-sex marriage lobby wants to convince us that same-sex couples should be allowed to marry, it needs to be more transparent and less dishonest. The lobby cannot simply hide behind the proposition that, because so many heterosexuals are moral incompetent within marriage, homosexuals should also have the right to be morally incompetent within marriage.
- In spite of what the same-sex lobby says, males and females have differently parenting styles and children need a mother and a father. Why has this basic fact become apparently irrelevant to the same-sex marriage issue?
- Finally, it should be perfectly obvious that neither male–male couples nor female–female couples can procreate by themselves without some form of modern technology or intervention from the opposite sex. Why has this basic fact also become apparently irrelevant to the same-sex marriage issue?

For all these reasons, I support same-sex relationships and oppose same-sex marriage.

Sincerely yours,

Reverend Dr Michael Giffin PhD