

INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 15/02/2013

Partially Confidential

Friday, February 15, 2013

Just because something is wanted by a small vocal group or even a large vocal group, does not mean we are obligated or should do it. And just because we have the means or ability to do something, again, does not mean we are obligated or should do it. Doing something or not doing something should be based on the answer to question "Is it right in every aspect of right to do this?" "What are the long term ramifications of doing this particular thing?"

Sometimes so called "reform" is just the opposite: regress. Many things are right and worth changing. However, changing the definition of marriage to include same sex relationships is NOT one of them.

"Marriage is fundamentally about the needs of children", writes David Blankenhorn, a supporter of gay rights in the US who nevertheless draws the line at same-sex marriage. "Redefining marriage to include gay and lesbian couples would eliminate entirely in law, and weaken still further in culture, the basic idea of a mother and a father for every child".

David van Gend: "Marriage is not a fad to be cut to shape according to social whim. The father of modern anthropology, Claude Levi-Strauss, called marriage "a social institution with a biological foundation". Marriage throughout history is society's effort to reinforce this biological reality: male, female, offspring. All our ceremonies and laws exist to buttress nature – helping bind a man to his mate for the sake of social stability and for the sake of the child they might create.

Not all marriages do create children – but typically they do, and the institution exists for the typical case of marriage. Homosexual relations cannot create children and cannot provide a child with natural role models; such relations are important to the individuals involved, and demand neighbourly civility, but they do not meet nature's job description for marriage.

As van Onselen notes, homosexual couples now enjoy equality with male-female couples in every way short of marriage. It must stop short of marriage, because the demands of adults must end where the birthright of a child begins. Marriage and family formation is about something much deeper than civil equality; it is about a natural reality which society did not create and which only a decadent party like the Greens, so out of touch with nature, would seek to destroy."