

INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

SUBMISSION

Dear Members of the NSW Upper House Committee looking into matters relating to same-sex "marriage",

I am a NSW resident eligible to vote in this state. I have been told that the New South Wales Upper House is conducting an inquiry looking mainly at legal issues and community attitudes surrounding a proposed NSW bill to legalise "same sex marriage".

If this is true, I am not sure why this is being addressed as a state matter, as I understood that marriage is a federal matter, and would be grateful if you could clarify that for me.

I oppose the legalization of same-sex "marriage" and a re-defining of marriage to include marriage of homosexual couples, because I believe God defined marriage as the faithful union of one woman and one man. God designed marriage from the outset to be a sexual relationship between one adult man and one adult woman, and it serves two very important purposes: -

- It is an age-old public recognition and regulation of human sexuality between a man and a woman.
- It is an age-old socially recognised means by which children are brought into the world and cared for.

There are many great benefits for society, for children and for adults as a result of stable man-woman marriages. They also enable children, wherever possible, to be brought up by a father and a mother who are in a faithful and stable marriage. It's important that governments respect long-standing social institutions that provide for strong families and strong communities.

I read and hear a lot about the current definition of marriage discriminating against homosexual people. I believe that Federal parliament in 2008 amended over 80 pieces of legislation, with bipartisan support, which removed disadvantage on practical matters like superannuation and next-of-kin status for same-sex "couples". I do not find the claims of discrimination make for a very helpful argument, as Australian laws currently "discriminate" in a variety of ways. For instance, an adult man cannot marry a 10 year old girl, one man cannot marry two or three women, four men cannot be married to one another, a sister and brother cannot be married to each other. Another example of this can be found in the Australian newspaper online at <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/greens-fall-foul-over-menage-a-trois-ban/story-fn59niix-1226364992321>

I am concerned that, once the understanding of marriage as between one woman and one man is overturned, a range of unhelpful kinds of parenting and sexual activity will become permissible, to the detriment of society. It could also mean that children can have one of their biological parents excluded from their lives before they are born, without their permission.

16 February 2013.