

INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

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Submission from Lighthouse Church Wollongong and Shellharbour against redefining Marriage in NSW:

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Marriage is ordained by God as an exclusive covenant between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:18). God designed marriage as the foundational element of all human society. A public exchange of vows, sexual intimacy and loving care constitute the essential elements of the marriage covenant. These three vital elements expressed by love and loyalty, faithfulness and responsibility constitute marriage, which Scripture declares is, in principle, permanent.

While having children is an important factor in marriage, sexual intimacy is designed for more than procreation. Sexual relationship assists in establishing, expressing and maintaining intimacy in the marriage.

Marriage is a God-given institution and holds a unique place in society. We oppose any legislation that would erode one of the cornerstones of society.

Marriage and the families that ensue from them make up the fabric of our communities, and we believe, as would most Australians, that this is something worth nurturing and safeguarding.

Same sex unions so closely mimic marriage that they threaten to undermine the majority held view that marriage is something that takes place between a man and a woman."

- Marriage as the union of a man and a woman has existed across cultures, religions and millennia, reflecting the biological complementary of the sexes.
- Marriage existed before parliaments – the state has no business in redefining something that has naturally existed in almost all times and places.
- Redefining marriage creates the presumption that a child no longer has the right to be raised within their biological family. This is a serious human rights issue for our most vulnerable.
- Redefining marriage leads to the suppression of freedom of speech and freedom of religion.
- Marriage is a federal issue – the New South Wales parliament should not be attempting to redefine marriage.