

INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

Name: Mr Andrew Hawes

Date received: 7/02/2013

Submission on Same Sex Marriage Inquiry

I was astonished to learn that our State Government has decided that it no longer is part of the Commonwealth of Australia, and chooses to make laws of its own about Federally legislated matters. Does this mean that soon, we will become the Commonwealth of New South Wales?? Marriage is legislated by our Federal Government, not our State Governments. Can you imagine all the problems and confusion if every State in our nation decided to have different laws governing marriage? And why stop there? Why don't we change which side of the road we drive on? That at least would make more sense, and be less confusing! But wait, such legislation at the state level would be entirely unconstitutional, which of course, would make it invalid.

I always find it fascinating how politicians react to so-called "opinion polls". Not only can they be asked in such a way as to produce a desired result quite easily, but often the results are not an accurate reflection of the majority of people, as there are so many variables that are simply not taken into account; for example, geographic location, socio-economic situation. Want a TRUE indication of how New South Welshpeople think on this matter? Only a referendum, with appropriately worded booklets outlining the arguments both for and against can give such a result.

It is ridiculous, that, just to keep a few votes, the government is willing to throw away thousands of years of traditions and laws found all over the world. There are so many reasons that marriage is between a man and a woman who are not closely related. First, they can produce children, second, not being related protects our children against genetic disabilities, third, Mums and Dads are very different role models for their children, and parent in different ways. A little simplistic, and quite the generalisation, yes, but true nonetheless. Fourthly, with a Mum and a Dad, children learn how to relate to people of the opposite sex in an appropriate manner. Marriage is far more than just about love. If that's all it was, we would be letting teenagers get married from about Year 7! But we don't, we protect the sanctity of marriage, as it really does form the backbone of our society, and society in general. Mum, Dad, and rugrats.

As a state, we should strive to be more than just led about by the nose by whichever lobby is loudest, but rather, to be in the forefront of social stability, and social justice. Many things that are socially just tend to be unpopular, but that does not make them any less right. I am proud to be an Australian living in New South Wales. So, let's keep New South Wales there in forefront of the fight for right, not popular.

Andrew Hawes