

**Submission
No 1187**

INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

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I believe marriage should not be redefined for the following reasons:

1. It is possible to accept homosexual people without agreeing with them on everything. It is possible to disagree with these proposals respectfully and carefully.
2. The question of same-sex marriage shouldn't be characterised as a question on equality. Same-sex couples currently enjoy equitable treatment in all aspects of the law relevant to de facto couple status. The push for same-sex marriage is largely ideological, because same-sex couples are not disadvantaged without it (unless you decide that it is homophobic not to give homosexual couples further recognition). No one is done a real injustice to continue to honour marriage as it is currently understood (lifelong, opposite sex, faithful and potentially procreative relationships).
3. As we renegotiate the element of marriage that is 'a man and a woman', it becomes difficult to understand why we would exclude any imagined candidate for 'marriage'. In the United States, legalisation of gay marriage has led to calls for polygamy to be legalised, where it is also based on loving, consensual relationships.
4. Marriage is a unique relationship between a man and a woman. This is the foundation of the family unit, which is the foundation of society.
5. Redefining marriage may have serious consequences for religious freedom and freedom of conscience in the future.
6. Same-sex marriage sets up a new family model that minimised the truth that gender is vital to a child in family formation. Research shows that a child with married, biological parents do best.