

## INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

To Whom it May Concern

I am writing to voice my opposition to changing the definition of marriage. Marriage is a defined state- it is one man and one woman in an exclusive relationship recognised by law. Anything else, be it one man and one man, or one woman and one woman is not by definition a marriage.

By its very definition it excludes same sex union as equally as it excludes the union of an adult and child. If you redefine marriage for the first scenario it is only logical others will seek to define it to include scenarios such as the latter or even extended the union to three or more partners. Redefining the word marriage simply undermines the existing definition and therefore the institution of marriage.

Marriage is a unique relationship which brings with it unique responsibilities and should be preserved as such. It brings with it the natural ability to create a family and the family is the foundation of society. Allowing same sex marriage to raise a family denies the truth of children doing best when in a family with both gender parents and role models. It is shown that gender is vital to a child in family formation. And it is wrong to deny children the chance to start life in a family with both their biological parents. To deny them this is to treat them as a commodity or possession rather than the vulnerable people in need of a biological family unit to develop to their full potential.

As already in evidence in the Netherlands and other western nations where the legal redefinition has taken place, religious liberty and freedom of conscience has already been curtailed. Clergy refusing to perform same sex unions in the Netherlands have been now defined criminal by law. By redefining marriage the way is opened for all those who do not agree to be penalised under law.

Also, by changing the definition of marriage a large proportion of the population will have their deeply held cultural and religious beliefs disregarded.

Thanks for your consideration of my views.