

INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

Name: Mr William Graves

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Dear Committee,

Thank you for inviting public submissions.

With regard to legal issues surrounding state based legislation it is my opinion that the Commonwealth Marriage Act 1961 would over rule any state based redefinition of marriage and so would make such a change in NSW silly (to borrow a term from my 5 year old daughter). It would also make it confusing.

With regard to "other jurisdictions both in Australia and overseas to demands for marriage equality" I would say that just because someone else demands something does not make it right or indeed make it so that NSW should go with the flow. NSW should stand on its own and make its own decisions where it has the authority to do so. I also think that NSW should uphold the Australian definition of marriage. I add also that we should not think in terms of "marriage equality". A better way to put it is relationship equality.

On your last item in the terms of reference I appreciate that there is a vocal part of society that is claiming a change of attitude to marriage in Australia with regard to allowing people of the same gender to claim to be married however a loud voice does not indicate a change of attitude amongst the wider population.

In case you were not aware I would like you to know that I do not support a change to the current definition of marriage nor do I support allowing any marriage other than between a man and a woman.

Thank you once again,
William Graves