

INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

I am a wife, mother, grandmother and secondary teacher who cares about the rights of men, women and children. As an educated professional, I do not like to see grand changes to the rights of any people in our society. Marriage, as an institution has been the fundamental basis of all society since the beginning of time, prior to the development of the Westminster institution of Parliaments.

I do not feel that we have the right to change such a tradition. Who are we to say that marriage can be between members of the same sex, when throughout the centuries, marriage has been for relationships involving members of the opposite sexes.

When left unhindered, this union produces children...this is the natural product of a normal relationship between adult heterosexual couples. The basis of our family life is this structure and children are safest and most-rounded individuals when they grow up in these types of families. The so-called 'modern family' does not produce well-rounded individuals as the children are not raised in an environment where they have the ability to view both genders at a close range. We spend so much time teaching about the detrimental effects of the Stolen Generation and the harmful effects these children suffered by not being raised in the normal family structure, yet we think that we have the right to 'play' with an institution that has been around for millennia. Do we really want to supercede the basic rights of a child to grow up in an environment that will aid their natural development by trialling marriage and adoption to same sex couples?

Once the basic institution of marriage is opened up to any form of relationship, what does that do to the rights of those who disagree with it? Do they have a voice left? In other countries where this change has been made, people trying to speak against it have been silenced and their basic rights of free speech eroded, including their right to have a religious or cultural belief that differed from the newly instituted form. Do we really want this type of state? I believe Australia and New South Wales should be a free place where different views are allowed to be heard but I think the basic institution of marriage should not be changed as it could open up too many opportunities for minority groups to force their ideas on the general populace who do not always have as strong a public voice.