

**Submission
No 874**

INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

Name: Revd Christopher Clerke

Date received: 15/02/2013

My marriage was 43 years ago, and remains the greatest source of happiness in my life.

Marriage I define as the union of a man & woman, voluntarily entered into for life: and this has long been the widespread definition, including in The Commonwealth Marriage Act.

Each word of the definition is important.

Like marriage, there are other kinds of unions, or commitments, that are properly recognised in law.

Should not a state use words with their usual meaning, when drafting laws? What right has a state to presume to re-define words, like marriage?

If marriage is re-defined to leave out "man & woman" then I am going to have to find a new word to describe my marriage.

The re-definition going to rob the word "marriage" (including my marriage) of some of its current meaning.