

## INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

I am opposed to a NSW Bill to legalise same sex marriage. Marriage is a federal, not state issue under the Australian constitution- thus a NSW bill would be invalid and cause confusion accross the differing states. Yes, there are opinion polls, but these are not a reliable guide for the whole of society's opinion. Only a clearly explained referendum can indicate the true views accross all of Australian society. Furthermore, I hold grave concerns about the repercussions of such a law. If love becomes the utmost qualifying factor for marriage, then what is to stop polygamy, or marrying a relative, or even a child further down the track, if love is also present in these cases? Also, in countries such as Canada and Denmark that have legalised same sex marriage, religious ministers have been forced to marry same sex couples against their conscience, and face serious legal ramifications if they refuse. Finally, same sex couples are already entitled to every legal right and protection that heterosexual couples have, so marriage is not really an issue of equality. Marriage is, and should always remain, a union between one man and one woman, voluntarily entered into for life.