

## INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

What is very concerning for me is that marriage is a federal, not state, issue under Australia's Constitution – so a NSW bill relating to marriage or “same sex marriage” would be invalid and unconstitutional.

It is perfectly possible to support natural marriage while also recognising and respecting the rights of others. Changing the law so that marriage includes same-sex unions would be a massive change to what marriage means. The issue is one of definition, not discrimination. I think the NSW government can spend its time and money more wisely than trying to protect people that are already protected under the law and already have many rights.

I am also writing to express my concerns as to where such a bill will lead our state and our culture. I do not believe that same sex marriages should be legally sanctioned. The issue for me is not whether same-sex unions are permitted, but whether they are institutionalised. The issue is about whether we build on them as a foundation for society. I am not making a case for the legal prosecution of homosexual practice. As a Christian I believe that hateful, fearful, unconcerned harassment of persons with a homosexual orientation should be repudiated. I am simply making a case against changing the definition of marriage.

Marriage is, and has always been the unique relationship shared between one man and one woman. It has been the foundation to which families are built upon, and in turn the society has been built upon and is deeply held by a large proportion of the population for cultural and religious reasons. I plead with you to respect this. Furthermore, redefining marriage has potential serious consequences for religious freedom and freedom of conscience.

In addition, reliable research shows that a child with married, biological mother and father do best. Therefore, children should be given the chance to start life with both their biological parents. I agree with Miranda Devine from the Telegraph when she states that if such bills were passed marriage will become just another lifestyle choice, rather than the bedrock institution of our society, providing the optimal chance for a child to thrive and to grow up free of abuse.

There is much more serious matters for New South Wales to battle in this time