

INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

Name: Mr John & Mrs Ruth Athanasio

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Objection to proposal

We wish to submit our strong opposition to the proposal to legalise 'same-sex marriage' in NSW.

There are many reasons why passing this bill would be a serious mistake of judgment.

To begin with, under Australia's Constitution, marriage is a federal, not a state issue and so a NSW bill relating to marriage or 'same-sex marriage' would be unconstitutional and therefore invalid. Differing State laws would lead to all kinds of complication, confusion and uncertainty - marriage issues should be decided for the whole of Australia in the federal parliament.

Further to this, opinion polls loaded with over-simplified and sometimes ambiguous questions are neither a reliable measure of public opinion nor are they justifiable grounds for the introduction of a law which affects the entire population - especially when it is concerning a matter of such impact which is known to have strongly divided beliefs. A referendum, where voters receive a booklet explaining BOTH sides is the only accurate way of gauging the true views of the people.

Marriage is recognised as the committed union of a man and a woman to encourage the stable social context needed for resulting children to be raised to responsible adulthood. Mothers and fathers parent differently, and children need both approaches in order to develop a balanced identity. That is why marriage should remain a union of a man and a woman.

Yours Sincerely,

Ruth & John Athanasio