

**Submission
No 833**

INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

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To the members of NSW parliament,

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this submission.

I would like to present view on the current definition of the word 'marriage' in Australia.

Marriage is a union of a man and a woman; united along with them 2 families; also 2 people groups as well as 2 traditions. Marriage is the joining of 3 families; the bride's family joins with the groom's family to form a new family. Everyone enjoys the breath-taking awe and presentation of weddings in the 21st century.

Marriage involves the following:

The groom's family: A loving father and a loving mother love each other and love their son; and the son honours his father and his mother. He values them conceived him, carried him nine months in the womb, raised him with care and great examples for at least 18 years. The son also sees great families like his around him among his relatives and community.

The bride's family: A loving father and a loving mother love each other and love their daughter; and the daughter honours his father and his mother. She values them conceived her, carried her for nine months in the womb, raised her with care and great examples for at least 18 years. The daughter also sees great families like her around her among her relatives and community.

The above potential groom courts with the above potential bride with respects, love and encouragement along with planning of a possible future together knowing that it is a life long commitment. They studied a number of marriage books. This may go as long as 2 years.

The potential groom proposes to the potential bride with the permission and blessing of the parents from both sides.

The potential bride accepts the proposal from the potential groom. The newly engaged couple celebrate their engagement with family and friends. They attend pre-marriage counselling together. It depends on their family backgrounds, the counselling may go for 3 months to 12 months. They plan their wedding and their honeymoon.

They marry officially with witnesses of family and friends at a grand wedding and reception. They set off to their honeymoon. They thank their families and friends. They continue to work on their marriage by revising marriage books and attending relationship seminars and put what they learn in practice.

They plan to start a family and buying their own home if they have not already done so. From the book, "The Billing Method" pages 133 to 134 by Dr

Evelyn Billings, approximately 15% of couple trying to have a child are unable to do so. Another 10% have fewer children than they desire. Yet most couples are totally unprepared for infertility and unaware that in many cases it can be overcome. Infertility may produce many unexpected feelings isolation, helplessness, guilt, anger, despair, and grief for the child not born. It may be the cause of mutual accusations, create demands on partners, family and friends, whose support and advice is sought. However, the advice given is not always accurate and sympathetic. And unless it is scientifically well founded, suggestions about how to overcome an infertility problem can further damage on already disturbed relationship. So it is important to seek doctors or counsellors who are knowledgeable in this field. Infertility is usually defined as the inability to conceive after 12 to 18 months of trying without contraception."

Based on the above scientific information, in order to build generationally, married couple needs to be planted in an environment of encouragement and support even up to 2 and half years to see the fruit of the womb. They need to be in great health physically, emotionally, mentally, financially, relationally and spiritually.

The above is considered as the gift or the blessing of marriage between a man and a woman.

Let's look at why marriages fail as one in two marriages in Australia failed at present. The two common grounds of marriage failure are adultery and domestic violence. The third ground is that a married couple has irreconcilable differences that cause them to drift apart. If they are children involved in a marriage failure, it makes life distressing, unstable and difficult for the children.

Because of the current high divorce rate of Australian society, people who choose to get married are getting married much older and much more cautious to make sure the marriage work from pre-marriage counselling, courses, books, post marriage enrichment. This also causes married people plan to have children in their mid-life rather than early adulthood. This also causes married couples to have less children than they could potentially if they were married younger, hence it contributes to the increase of an aging population.

We are also now a multi-cultural society. From honouring our parents to dating, from dating to engagement, from engagement to marriage, from marriage to parenting awakening, from parenting awakening to parenting preparation, from parenting preparation to conception, from conception to giving birth, from giving birth to parenting babies, from parenting babies to parenting early childhood, from parenting early childhood to parenting primary school age children, from parenting primary school age children to parenting teenagers, they are lot of things involved. If the married couple from 2 different cultural backgrounds, they will be more things involved still. And if the married couple speak more than one language, they have even more to work with in term of communication and extended family relations.

As you are aware, it takes a lot to help a married couple to stay together. If marriage is so complex in 21st century Australia, why use that term in another form of relationship? Therefore, please do not redefine the current usage of the term: marriage in state of New South Wales.

Yours sincerely,

William Lee