

INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

Name: Rev David Yu

Date received: 15/02/2013

To whom it may concern,

I write in response to attempts to change the definition of marriage as between one man and one woman for life. I think that this definition of marriage ought not to be changed. Marriage is an important institution that forms the bedrock of our society in that it provides the stable framework in which children are brought up. Marriage in this context is more to do with the welfare of the children than it is to do with adult relationships. Every child has the right to the love of mum and dad. As such the institution of marriage ought to be protected by the government for the benefit of the Australian society as a whole. Redefining marriage in effect creates the presumption that children do not have the right to be raised by their biological family.

The idea that marriage is about love is a false trail. People love all sorts of things, but we don't call those relationships 'marriage'. Marriage is restricted to that particular relationship between husband and wife. So marriage to a pet, or a sibling or an inanimate object are excluded. A redefinition of marriage in effect makes a statement of what the government is willing to sanction and regulate.

Redefining marriage has potentially serious consequences for religious freedom and freedom of conscience. The European Court of Human Rights decision in 2012 highlights these dangers, noting that if same-sex marriage is legislated, then promises that churches will not be forced to conduct such marriages are worthless. Already we are seeing the problems this redefinition has had in the Netherlands, Canada and United States.

Finally, marriage is a federal issue. Last year, the Federal Parliament voted 2 to 1 against an attempt to redefine marriage. The New South Wales Parliament should not be attempting to redefine marriage.

I believe that marriage traditionally defined is still regarded as important by many in Australia and their view should be respected.

Your sincerely,

David Yu.