

## **INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW**

**Name:** Mr James Dickson

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Dear Social Issues Committee,

Since the dawn of history, marriage has meant the lifelong union of a man and a woman.

The purpose of marriage, as far as governments are concerned, is to help provide a stable environment for raising any children of the union, with both male and female role models to help them to relate to people of both sexes. Marriage recognises 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.

Marriage is about more than just love. It is not a question of everyone having the "right" to marry whomever they love. People are not free to marry close relatives, children or someone who is already married.

Marriage is a federal, not a state, issue under Australia's Constitution, so a NSW bill relating to marriage or "same sex marriage" would be invalid and unconstitutional. Different state marriage laws would lead to confusion and uncertainty. Marriage issues should be decided for the whole of Australia in the federal parliament. Opinion polls with loaded or simplistic questions are not a reliable guide to public opinion. Only a federal referendum, where voters receive a booklet explaining both sides, can indicate their true views.

Yours sincerely,  
James Jeffrey Dickson