

**Submission
No 87**

INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

Name: Ms Melanie Adams

Date received: 31/01/2013

SUBMISSION RE: SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

To address this issue, we need to ask the question: *What is marriage?*

The law states "*Marriage means the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life*". But what is the nature of this union? What is the expectation?

We could say that the union is based on an ability to procreate, but this argument is moot if the law allows infertile couples to marry, which it does.

We could say that the union is based on an ability to have traditional intercourse, but this is also rendered moot for people with certain disabilities, or simply unhappy couples who do not engage in such activities. Yet they may still marry.

However, I believe most would suggest that the union is based on love and companionship. It is a lifetime commitment to another person, and an agreement to be bound by the other, financially and legally, for the rest of your lives. In this regard, anything less than EQUALITY is simply DISCRIMINATION.

As always, the religious argument will arise; those whose faith denounces homosexual relations will loudly proclaim we are an abomination and are not to be recognised.

However, this is not a religious debate. I do not seek for my union to be recognised by any faith. I seek for my union to be recognised by the LAW. Even keeping emotion out of it, while it is very relevant to me, I seek to be legally bound to the person I choose, regardless of gender.

Therefore, to say marriage is "*the union of a man and a woman*" is simply bigotry.

Change the law.

EQUALITY, not DISCRIMINATION.

Melanie Adams, 31 January 2013