

INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

11 February, 2013

The Premier,
The Hon. Barry O'Farrell

Dear Mr Premier,

We are somewhat surprised that the Government of our State of New South Wales is considering legislation to address issues relating to the marriage relationship, for it is our understanding that, under The Constitution of Australia, marriage is a federal, not state, issue. In that case, legislation enacted by the Government of the State of New South Wales would be invalid, being unconstitutional.

The recognised formula for marriage, that recognises is as an enduring union between one man and one woman, has proven successful long before New South Wales was discovered and named. It has been demonstrated by history that the formula as stated provides the stable social context needed for children born of that union to be raised to responsible adulthood. We need not remind you, Mr Premier, that Winston Churchill pointed out that those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat its mistakes.

We are involved in ministry to prisoners and their families, and are only too painfully aware of the numerous problems faced by children who lack the care of *both* mother and father in their formative years. It is simply a basic fact of life that mothers and fathers perform different roles in the family unit (although, we emphatically would assert, not different in status!), and children need the nurture of both parents in order to develop to their potential as human beings. It is also essential for the child to have the security of a stable relationship between parents, if he or she is to develop into a confident, secure individual, a fact recognised by all civilised societies since time immemorial, and that is why marriage has always been instituted, and should remain, the enduring union of one man and one woman.

We are aware that the Government of the State of New South Wales is in receipt of the results of so-called "Opinion Polls" purporting to demonstrate strong public support for the legalisation of marriage between individuals of the same gender. One of us is a scientist, and knows only too well how such polls may be manipulated using loaded questions, or selective target groups, and so on, and cannot be relied upon to be reliable guides to the wishes of the electorate as a whole. If you want that, you have the power to organise a referendum on the topic, prior to which voters may be informed dispassionately about the merits or demerits of each position.

Yours Sincerely,