

## INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

As a happily married man to the same wife for 37 years and having raised 5 children I am anxious that the term marriage remains unchanged in that it refers to a union between a man and a woman. Any watering down of the term demeans the relationship that I have with my wife and undermines what the normal concept of a family would be.

My strong feeling is that other unions can be recognised by terms that they think best describes their situation but marriage should not be used to describe a union between a man and another man or a woman and another woman. At present those relationships are adequately described as homosexual or lesbian unions and there is no ambiguity in what is being referred to. I do not want the term marriage that describes my relationship with my wife to be confused with a mix of other unions.

The ideal concept of a family is a stable one which has a husband, wife and children. Whilst there are many variations in society from the

ideal I do not think that this is justification to aspire to something less than the ideal in our legislation or to legislate just to make someone feel comfortable. Our legislation should be aspirational and not something that settles for something less desirable.