

**Submission
No 932**

INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

Name: Mrs Rachel Christian

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Marriage is not open to debate. It is what it says on the box: one man united with one woman, voluntarily, with the intention of remaining together for life. The Australian Federal Government has overwhelmingly recognised the futility, nay the danger, of ignoring this truth. I am deeply disappointed that the NSW Government has seen fit to attempt to reopen debate. As a general rule, I am a strong supporter of true Federalism - that is, the Federal Government ought to be responsible for truly nation-wide concerns, like defence, with the states responsible for the more local things that impact upon their constituents. The folly of the NSW state government in this case has made me wonder a little at the wisdom of my position.

Allow me to clearly state my concerns:

- Marriage is set up to provide a stable environment for the raising of children. I do not say same-sex couples are unable to rear children - many do so, and lovingly. I do say they are clearly unable to conceive them. I also say the social damage created by a lack of respect for marriage is already visible in society - children raised with the stable influence of both parents generally do better academically, socially, financially, and in measures of self-confidence.
- Same-sex unions are to be praised, encouraged. When two people - whatever their biology - are in love, that is a beautiful thing; and they should have the right to legally acknowledge their commitment to each other. To share the rights and duties to one another and the state that married couples willingly take on. Civil unions, however, are not marriage. One does not have to be homophobic to recognise the true value of marriage.
- I am a practicing Christian. People who profess other faiths will probably also agree with me that attacking marriage in this way is attacking freedom of speech and freedom of religion. I am a passionate supporter of both, and believe that these are great legacies of the Christian contribution to Western, and in this case specifically English-speaking civilisation. I will not see a wedge driven in to destroy these building blocks of Australian identity.

I, and many others, campaigned vigorously in support of marriage when it was attacked at a Federal level. We won that battle (our cause is just), and will fight on until this war is won. The homosexual minority - please remember, it is very much a minority - may be very loud, and will probably make accusations and indulge in name-calling as was seen during the Federal debate. It is unfortunate that they do not seem willing to accept the blessings they have, but only to destroy those of others. The Australian majority, and the NSW majority, do not support changing the definition of marriage. As our representatives, you are responsible for acting accordingly.