

**Submission
No 211**

INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

Name: Mr Frederick Hitchen

Date received: 7/02/2013

Dear Committee,

Like so many in our community I am strongly opposed to a NSW Bill to legalise same sex marriage.

Marriage is a federal, **not State** issue under the Australian constitution.

Selective opinion polls are not necessarily a reliable guide for the whole of society's opinion.

Only a clearly explained National referendum can indicate the true views across all of Australian society.

In any case there are grave concerns about the repercussions of such a law. If love becomes the utmost qualifying factor for marriage, then what is to stop polygamy, or marrying a relative, or even a child further down the track, if love is also present in these cases? Also, in countries such as Canada that have legalised same sex marriage, religious ministers have been forced to marry same sex couples against their conscience, and face serious legal ramifications if they refuse.

Finally, same sex couples are already entitled to every legal right and protection that heterosexual couples have, so marriage is not really an issue of equality.

Marriage is, and should always remain a union between one man and one woman, voluntarily entered into for life.

To have even reached this point of an enquiry it is yet another case of a electoral minority tail wagging the majority dog.

There are many more vital and priority issues in NSW to address by inquiry than this.

It is, in my view an unwarranted and unnecessary expenditure of precious parliamentary resources and money, at the expense of other key issues.

Yours faithfully,

Frederick Clive Hitchen