

## **INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW**

**Name:** Dr Paul R Whiting

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Thank you for the opportunity to express an opinion on this matter.

Re Terms of Reference 1:

I am however surprised that the Social Issues Committee of the state parliament is considering matters relating to same-sex marriage, since my understanding is that under the Constitution of Australia, marriage is a Federal matter.

However, the committee needs to consider some at least of the following. I am sure that members have considered these matters, but I trust they will be swayed by reason and not blinkered by ideology.

Re Terms of Reference 4:

It is self-evident that two women cannot produce a family, and neither can two men. Since time immemorial, marriage has been between members of opposite sex. To try to change the nature of marriage is then to try to change what is the nature of things to what is un-natural. To do that is unwise. Who are we to have suddenly discerned that the wisdom of the ages is wrong and we are right, just because a small number of people want it so?

A stable, balanced marriage is important for the optimal development of children. There is a body of research showing that children develop best in a number of ways when they are brought up by a mother and a father who are married. Of course, some marriages break down, as do any relationships. Nevertheless, every child should be given the opportunity to have such an upbringing.

It would be interesting (and maybe helpful to know what the majority of Australians really think about this issue. Opinion polls give no guide whatsoever, since the questions have not been researched and the samples are not truly representative. Some are conducted on the internet, so that a small majority can organise to look like a large majority. There are no controls on such "polls". It is impossible to know how or if social attitudes to same-sex marriage have changed without a properly conducted referendum. For example, my conversations with people reveal that they believe that it is an absurd and self-contradictory notion, inimical to the well-being of children and society in general. Others disagree. Who is right? There is not an impartial observer in these matters. Clearly, it is a matter being advocated by a small minority of the population, and not by the majority.

Thank you for considering these observations.

Dr Paul R. Whiting