

INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

Name: Mr David Byrne

Date received: 8/02/2013

Standing Committee on Social Issues

Thank you for not only the privilege but also this infrequent opportunity to address the Social issue of Same-sex Marriage.

As a young citizen of New South Wales, it has come increasingly to my attention the large growth and the homosexual community of New South Wales. The issue of legalising Same-sex Marriage has earned a lot of media scrutiny, questioning the fact if homosexuals under the (International Bill of Rights) in fact have the right to not be discriminated based on sexual preferences. The Homosexual community has argued to push forth the legalisation of Same-sex Marriage to allow homosexuals to marry within the Catholic Church.

In a compelling argument, Cardinal George Pell of the Catholic Church has stated issues in regards to family. I believe that Same-sex marriage should be disallowed within New South Wales because it will raise the issue; if a couple were to wed in NSW, that marriage is only legal in NSW not any other state. Generally this could cause a lot of confusion and highly become an inconvenience for homosexual couples. Marriage within the Catholic Church has always been considered traditional and orthodox meaning between a man and a woman with the intention to bear children. In fact there have not been any radical progressions or changes within the Catholic Church since Pope John XXIII in the Second Vatican Council as well as recent retranslations of prayers and creeds. In saying this any movement within the Catholic Church would see a debacle within the church itself. Interestingly enough both Islamic and Jewish communities hold disbelief in Same-sex Marriage, therefore even if Same-sex marriage is legalised in NSW, there is a scarce amount of religious buildings (church, mosque, synagogue), possibly even none that will perform a ceremony of marriage. Same-sex marriage will implement the thought that homosexuality is a normal way of life. When in fact Australia was established primarily as a Christian nation, homosexuality was highly disregarded as it was detrimental to the development of a family. The matter in question is that, do children have rights under the International Bill of rights?? Yes, they have a right to a family, to a family that consists of a mother and a father. In recent studies Psychologists have provided evidence that children raised in homosexual backgrounds have the tendency to lack the discipline that children non-homosexual families have received from their parents. The development of a child, especially an adolescent mind is crucial in the family unit. This could only be possibly approved through the dissolution of Same-sex marriage. Traditionally a family does consist of a mother, a father and children. Results of a child growing up without a mother or a father due to divorce could very much be the same outcome of a Same-sex couple.

As a nation that stands on its own, Same-sex marriage has been disapproved at a Federal Level for several reasons. Homosexuality in society is something that has become frowned upon by many heterosexuals despite the fact that Christians are taught to treat homosexuals as they would treat a heterosexual. Imagine the reaction of heterosexuals once homosexuals are married and are on our streets. We have seen a prejudice already set upon the homosexual community which they find constitutionally offensive. By not legalising Same-sex marriage in a way the NSW government are protecting the rights and freedom of the homosexual community a great example is a public display of intimacy. When a heterosexual couple in society "kiss" we see this normal aspect of everyday life to an extent! However if a homosexual couple were to "kiss" in public, certainly the general public will look at this abruptly in disgust. Therefore the government is doing the homosexual a favour in a way. A recommendation or option is a De facto Relationship and civil unions are a valid choice because they do not coincide with NSW Law. De facto Relationship and Civil Unions are all widely recognised across Australia and are all fair and promote equality amongst Homosexuals and is a choice provided by the Federal Government. In saying this equality is provided for homosexual couples and they granted protection from possible assault and harassment from anti-homosexual demonstrators.