

INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

Name: Mr Graham Lawrence

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The Secretary
Social Issues Committee,
The Parliament of NSW

Subject: Same sex 'marriage'?

Since the dawn of history, marriage has meant the lifelong union of a man and a woman who are not closely related to each other.

The purpose of marriage – as far as governments are concerned – is to help provide a stable environment for raising any children of the union, with both male and female role models to help them to relate to people of both sexes.

“Same sex marriage” does not make sense. Two men or two women cannot produce a child of the union, or bring up a child with both mum and dad role models. Marriage Act provisions that ban close relatives from marrying (to protect against genetic disabilities in children) do not make sense for a union of two men or two women, because they cannot procreate. Marriage is about more than just love.

Jesus was very clear that marriage is between a man and a woman. When asked, He quoted from Genesis, the first book in the Bible. He said (Matthew 19: 4-5): “Haven’t you read that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’?”

Marriage is a federal, not state, issue under Australia’s Constitution – so a NSW bill relating to marriage or “same sex marriage” would be invalid and unconstitutional.

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Different state marriage laws would lead to confusion and uncertainty. Marriage issues should be decided for the whole of Australia in the federal parliament.

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Opinion polls with loaded or simplistic questions are not a reliable guide to public opinion. Only a referendum, where voters receive a booklet explaining both sides, can indicate their true views.

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Marriage recognises the committed union of a man and a woman to encourage the stable social context needed for resulting children to be raised to responsible adulthood.

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Mothers and fathers parent differently, and children need both approaches in order to develop a balanced identity. That is why marriage should remain a union of a man and a woman.

For the reasons above, I am strongly opposed to legalising same sex marriage.

Yours faithfully
Graham Lawrence