

**Submission
No 294**

INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

Name: Mr Bill Hay

Date received: 8/02/2013

Members of the “Social Issues Committee”, NSW Government,

This submission is to let you know how important it is to NSW & Australia that "**Marriage should remain the Union of a man & a woman for life excluding all others**". *Children's well being*, not the 'rights' of adults, should be *the centre consideration* for retaining marriage as it is defined.

Same-sex marriage sets up a new family model that trashes the truth that gender is vital to a child in family formation. We feel strongly that children wherever possible, should grow up with a Mum & Dad who are married. Research shows that a child with married, biological mother and father do best.

Children should be given the chance to start life with both their biological parents. Such Marriages provides the strong families that make strong communities. They provide stability for children, & the parents, which the Government should value & respect.

The natural difference of a mother's and a Father's parenting provides the need for their children to experience both sides to develop a balanced identity. We should not deliberately deny children that balanced need. It is sad enough when it does happen and it affects children deeply.

If marriage can be redefined to include two people of the same gender, why not three or more people? We are afraid that 'marriage' will eventually be watered down to include polygamy etc, which, I understand, is being debated already in Canada since they redefined marriage to include two people of the same gender.

*Marriage is deeply valued by a large proportion of the population for cultural and religious reasons and this should be respected. We have achieved our 52nd Wedding Anniversary and our four children all have steady marriages. The eldest of our 6 grandchildren is in her fourth year of marriage & expecting their first child. We feel the 'Gays' have been given much protection & more privileges for a small percentage of the population, but may need further recognition of their relationship to exclusion of all others for life. **Perhaps recognition by another term could be found, but not sacred "Marriage", by redefining it to include two people of the same gender.***

Please leave us the term "Marriage" as now defined. It is sacred to us, given by God. It belongs to us who are the silent majority. *Redefining marriage has potentially serious consequences for religious freedom and freedom of conscience.*

Opinion polls even if their questions are not simplistic or loaded, are not a reliable guide to public opinion. The public need a referendum, where printed & clear arguments for both sides allow the voters a clear decision.

I understand Marriage is a federal issue under Australia's Constitution, so I wonder if a State's bill relating to "marriage" or "same sex marriage" would be unconstitutional. Would different state marriage laws cause confusion? Perhaps that is why our Australian Constitution made it a federal issue?

Sincerely Bill Hay.

William Alfred Holt Hay,