

I believed marriage should be between a man and a woman as nature dictated. I strongly against the fact that the same sex marriage received so much media attention that aims to divide the nation. While many heterosexuals decide to opt out from marriage because the piece of paper is meaningless, personally I don't see making same sex marriage legal will actually make the relationship long lasting. It is the commitment between the two people that makes it work. All marriages have its ups and downs; marriages between different ethnic backgrounds can face discrimination from families, friends and society. How come there is no law addressing that? The challenges are not limited to same sex marriage.

I personally feel the objective of such activity is to limit the freedom of religions because all religions are against same sex marriage. Those who practice their faith will be discriminated and penalised if they raise objections to recognise same sex marriage once the bill is passed. That should be the freedom of speech granted to any individual based on our Constitutions.

According to the Roy Morgan Research, during the latest triennium 2012-2014, the figure was around 1 in 29 (3.4%) of the population. 4.6% of that population are Australian teenager (14-19), rising to a peak of 6.5% for Australian in their 20s. From there, the rate declines to 4.2% of those in their 30s, to 2.8% in their 40s and 1.7% in people aged 50+.

<http://www.roymorgan.com/findings/6263-exactly-how-many-australians-are-gay-december-2014-201506020136>)

Going back to the intermarriage between different ethnic groups, the mixed marriages excluding UK, Ireland and New Zealand figure in 1996 was already over 30%. I think the figure in 2016 would exceed that because the trend of intermarriage in Australia was on the rise.

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/2f762f95845417aeca25706c00834efa/c414ec2a595eb029ca2570ec000e2817!OpenDocument>

If we are serious about addressing anti-discrimination, should the resource be put in where the needs are? Given Australia is now a multi-cultural society, the social change in maintaining the harmony between various ethnic groups is the right direction for the future. Our country needs to be united not divided to embrace the challenges in the future.