

Respected Sirs,

I am a permanent resident of Australia and currently living in Dandenong Victoria. It is my duty to voice out this evil and unacceptable bill which will destroy families and religious values. I strongly vote against Gay Marriage and any bill that supports this kind o marriage in any form should not be passed in a country like Australia which is built on strong Christian values. **I VOTE AGAINST Gay marriage (Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2010)**

Argument #1. Same Sex Marriage Decays Families

The implications for children in a world of decaying families are profound. A recent article in the Weekly Standard described how the advent of legally sanctioned gay unions in Scandinavian countries has already destroyed the institution of marriage, where half of today's children are born out of wedlock.

It is predicted now, based on demographic trends in this country, that more than half of the babies born in the 1990s will spend at least part of their childhood in single-parent homes.

Social scientists have been surprisingly consistent in warning against this fractured family. If it continues, almost every child will have several "moms" and "dads," perhaps six or eight "grandparents," and dozens of half-siblings. It will be a world where little boys and girls are shuffled from pillar to post in an ever-changing pattern of living arrangements-where huge numbers of them will be raised in foster-care homes or living on the street (as millions do in other countries all over the world today). Imagine an environment where nothing is stable and where people think primarily about themselves and their own self-preservation.

The apostle Paul described a similar society in Romans 1, which addressed the epidemic of homosexuality that was rampant in the ancient world and especially in Rome at that time. He wrote, "They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless" (v. 29-31, NIV).

Argument #2. Gay Marriage Will Lead to Polygamy

The introduction of legalized gay marriages will lead inexorably to polygamy and other alternatives to one-man, one-woman unions.

In Utah, polygamist Tom Green, who claims five wives, is citing *Lawrence v. Texas* as the legal authority for his appeal. This past January, a Salt Lake City civil rights attorney filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of another couple wanting to engage in legal polygamy. Their justification? *Lawrence v. Texas*.

The ACLU of Utah has actually suggested that the state will "have to step up to prove that a polygamous relationship is detrimental to society"-as opposed to the polygamists having to prove that plural marriage is not harmful to the culture. Do you see how the game is played? Despite 5,000 years of history, the burden now rests on you and me to prove that polygamy is unhealthy. The ACLU went on to say that the nuclear family "may not be necessarily the best model." Indeed, Justice Antonin Scalia warned of this likelihood in his statement for the minority in the *Lawrence* case.¹⁰ It took less than six months for his prediction to become reality.

Why will gay marriage set the table for polygamy? Because there is no place to stop once that Rubicon has been crossed. Historically, the definition of marriage has rested on a bedrock of tradition, legal precedent, theology and the overwhelming support of the people.

After the introduction of marriage between homosexuals, however, it will be supported by nothing more substantial than the opinion of a single judge or by a black-robed panel of justices. After they have done their wretched work, the family will consist of little more than someone's interpretation of "rights."

Given that unstable legal climate, it is certain that some self-possessed judge, somewhere, will soon rule that three men and one woman can marry. Or five and two, or four and four. Who will be able to deny them that right? The guarantee is implied, we will be told, by the Constitution. Those who disagree will continue to be seen as hate-mongers and bigots. (Indeed, those charges are already being leveled against those of us who espouse biblical values!) How about group marriage, or marriage between relatives, or marriage between adults and children? How about marriage between a man and his donkey? Anything allegedly linked to "civil rights" will be doable. The legal underpinnings for marriage will have been destroyed.

Argument #3. Gay Partners Will Burden the Government Entitlement System

How about the impact on Social Security if there are millions of new dependents that will be entitled to survivor benefits? It will amount to billions of dollars on an already overburdened system. And how about the cost to Australian businesses? Unproductive costs mean fewer jobs for those who need them. Are state and municipal governments to be required to raise taxes substantially to provide health insurance and other benefits to millions of new "spouses and other dependents"?

Argument #4. States Will No Longer Protect Marriage

An even greater objective of the homosexual movement is to end the state's compelling interest in marital relationships altogether. After marriages have been redefined, divorces will be obtained instantly, will not involve a court, and will take on the status of a driver's license or a hunting permit. With the family out of the way, all rights and privileges of marriage will accrue to gay and lesbian partners without the legal entanglements and commitments heretofore associated with it.

Argument #5. Children Will Be Taught Perversion

With the legalization of homosexual marriage, every public school in the nation will be required to teach that this perversion is the moral equivalent of traditional marriage between a man and a woman. Textbooks, even in conservative states, will have to depict man/man and woman/woman relationships, and stories written for children as young as elementary school, or even kindergarten, will have to give equal space to homosexuals.

Argument #6. Children Will Be Placed in Gay Households

From that point forward, courts will not be able to favor a traditional family involving one man and one woman over a homosexual couple in matters of adoption. Children will be

placed in homes with parents representing only one sex on an equal basis with those having a mom and a dad. The prospect of fatherless and motherless children will not be considered in the evaluation of eligibility. It will be the law.

Argument #7. Parents Will Be Required to Accept Homosexuality in Their Children

Foster-care parents will be required to undergo "sensitivity training" to rid themselves of bias in favor of traditional marriage, and will have to affirm homosexuality in children and teens.

Real Marriage is an institution for a man and a woman. Marriage is not genderless. It is a union of two different sexes, not just a union of two different people. Real marriage (a man & a woman) is not rooted in discrimination. It is rooted in common sense, for the common good. For marriage to flourish in our culture, it must be protected from redefinition; for if marriage can mean anything, it will mean nothing.

Real Marriage is best for children. While thousands of single moms and dads earn their Super Parent wings every day, to raise healthy children who become productive citizens, there is but one gold standard for which we should strive as a society... that every child be reared by a loving mother and father.

Real Marriage is the ultimate solution for the problems. Prisons fill, schools fail, and welfare rolls grow because of the breakdown of marriage & the home. Governments and charities have spent millions of dollars for decades treating symptoms. It is time for governments, churches, communities and businesses to come together to treat the cause.

Real Marriage is an intimate, healthy relationship. Real Marriage means communication, commitment, respect and selfless love. These are the keys to a healthy, happy, affair-proof life til death do us part. Successful parenting and warm, enduring bonds with children comes from true intimacy in marriage.

Real Marriage is worth working at. Divorce and dissatisfaction can be avoided. A good marriage is worth the effort it requires, and organizations across Australia stand ready to help with proven programs and timeless wisdom.

Real Marriage is built on faith. Marriage is a God-designed institution predating constitutions, governments, and laws. Marriage works best when God is the foundation and central unifying presence, and our law foundation is the Ten Commandments.

I Hope and pray that this Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2010 will not be passed. **I VOTE AGAINST IT.**

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Thanks With Best Regards,

Walter Peter