

## **Submission to the Senate Committee into the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2010**

Dear Committee Members,

We, the Parish Council of St Andrews Anglican Church, Oak Flats, NSW, wish to submit to you our opposition to the above Bill, which seeks to change the definition of marriage as currently defined in the Marriage Act.

Contrary to the assumptions of many, marriage is not merely a relationship – it is much more than that. Marriage is a union – the union of two different but complimentary people, a man and a woman, who come together in a way that creates a new entity, a family. When the Bible states (*Genesis 2:24*) *For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh*, it is not simply issuing an article of faith to be believed. It is making a statement of fact that is evidenced in all of human history.

The family created in marriage is the environment into which children may hopefully be conceived, born and nurtured. In each of these activities the different attributes of the man and the woman, the father and the mother, are indispensable. It is simply not possible for two men or two women to provide for all of these requirements. There will be inevitable compromises which will disadvantage any children brought up in these “compromise” families. Children deserve better.

Within the past week or so, the European Court of Human Rights has ruled that same sex marriage is not a human right. However in doing so, the Court also ruled that where a State does grant status to same sex couples, it must also grant these couples the same rights as other people to whom that status is granted. Obviously this means same sex couples would have the same rights as heterosexual couples do in matters as wide ranging as adoption, and choice of marriage services in any church or by any clergyman or celebrant offering marriage services.

Ministers, celebrants, and churches would be guilty of discrimination if, on the grounds of faith or conscience, they refused to marry a same sex couple. This may be the case irrespective of attempts by legislation to protect them. This ruling is, of course, subsequent to the drafting of the legislation under review, and is itself reason to block the passage of the Bill.

Notwithstanding the repeated claims of the homosexual lobby, there is no credible evidence that sexual orientation is fixed at birth, or genetically predetermined. This is so, despite many years of research.

The proposed amendments to the Marriage Act will help to promote the myth that homosexual relationships are an equally valid and beneficial alternative to normal heterosexual relationships. This is sheer wishful thinking. Nature itself shows us that it is an impossible proposition. Male and female persons are clearly designed to interact with each other to create a sexual union, whether or not procreation is intended or occurs.

Many Australians, for valid religious or cultural reasons believe that homosexual activity is contrary to the plan of God in nature, and His will in revelation. We are constantly being asked to show tolerance for those who are of a different view. But now we are being asked to accept the “different view” of a minority over against this foundation of our faith and culture, our family and societal life, that has served us well since the beginnings of recorded history. We do not want our children to be taught in schools and elsewhere, the myth that it doesn't really matter whether they grow up to marry a person of the same sex, or the opposite sex.

We trust that the Committee will consider this submission, and recommend to the Senate that it reject the legislation when it comes before it.

Yours faithfully

Rev Geoff Piggot,  
Acting Rector  
for the Parish Council of St Andrews Anglican Church