

Submission

By

The Presbyterian Church of Queensland

To

The Senate inquiry into the
Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2010

Purpose of the Bill

This private senator's bill, introduced by Senator Hanson-Young, seeks to remove all discriminatory references from the *Marriage Act 1961* to allow all people, regardless of sex, sexuality and gender identity, the opportunity to marry.

Definition of Marriage

The *Marriage Act 1961* defines marriage as:

marriage means the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.

Response to the Bill

The Presbyterian Church of Australia is a confessional Church which upholds the authority of Scripture. We believe the proposed bill goes against the Biblical understanding of marriage and therefore we oppose it.

Conclusion

The Marriage Act 1961 should not be further amended to allow same sex "marriage" even though homosexual practice between consenting adults is not illegal in Australia and its Territories, because homosexual practice is a sinful act in the sight of God, and because the status of marriage will be eroded.

Rt Rev Graeme McKay
Moderator

Rev Ron Clark
Clerk of Assembly

Presbyterian Church of Queensland