

The Senate Inquiry into the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2010

From Christopher Don Marshall

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To the Right Honourable Senators.

I wish to make a submission to the '*Inquiry into the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2010.*' As a humble citizen it is a task I have never envisioned attempting. I ask if the manner of its presentation or wording is incorrect forgive my ignorance to correct protocol.

Same sex marriage is not a question of human rights or lack of compassion for others. Marriage is between man and woman, it has been so from the beginning. Many influential and magnificent societies throughout the ages have eventually submitted to moral experimentation, which in time led to their downfalls.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms, '*The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society.*' As we weaken it or undermine its importance we destroy the foundation of our Society, Country, and our Civilization.

The question of same sex marriages is vitally important to the future of our children. If accepted it will begin to achieve the one of the goals of the leading figures in the lesbian and gay civil rights movement the late Paula Ettelbrick '*of radically reordering society's*'

Beginning with our schools it will require same sex marriages to be treated as a civil right issue requiring: -

1. Mandatory changes in school curricula, when the state says that same-sex unions are equivalent to heterosexual marriages, the curriculum of public schools will have to support this claim.
2. Beginning with primary school, children will be taught that marriage can be defined as a relationship between any two adults and that consensual sexual relations are morally neutral.
3. Classroom instruction on sex education in secondary schools can be expected to equate homosexual intimacy with heterosexual relations. These developments will create serious clashes between the agenda of the secular school system and the right of parents to teach their children traditional standards of morality.

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It is a sad footnote throughout the history of the world minority groups that demand rights to *'do as they please'* when they have the opportunity do not afford those rights to others and use the law as a weapon for their own aims. How will the bill be written to ensure parents and grandparents who teach their children same sex marriage is immoral? How will they be protected from zealous gays who will demand the full force of the law be brought to bear on any who oppose or speak against same sex marriage? Or is the Legislative Council of Australia prepared to class the majority of Australian citizens as criminals because they will not teach a law they consider to be immoral?

The Government may be criminalizing the majority all for naught, in April of 2000 Sate of Vermont in the USA passed a law instituting civil unions for Gays, it is estimated only 21% of the Gay population registered as legal civil union. In 1995 Sweden passed the Registered Partnership Act, again it is estimated only 2% of the Gay population registered. A study by Bradley P. Hayton, may explain why ***'Homosexuals...are taught by example and belief that marital relationships are transitory and mostly sexual in nature. Sexual relationships are primarily for pleasure rather than procreation. And they are taught that monogamy in a marriage is not the norm [and] should be discouraged if one wants a good "marital" relationship'***. (Bradley P. Hayton, "To Marry or Not: The Legalization of Marriage and Adoption of Homosexual Couples," Newport Beach: The Pacific Policy Institute, 1993: 9.)

Lord Sacks the Chief Rabi of Great Britain in a recent address to the House of Commons said *'We are beginning to move back to where we came in the 17th century—a whole lot of people on the Mayflower leaving to find religious freedom elsewhere.'* (www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/8609531/Chief-Rabbi-Equality-laws-leading-to-new-Mayflower-exodus.html) Australia is a land of religious freedom and the protection from persecution for ones beliefs is enshrined in the constitution and in its laws. Our military have fought wars, the flower of our county's youth has made great sacrifices to preserve and protect our freedoms and religious beliefs. I fear that if this bill is passed it will write away the protection of religious freedom. Indeed we very well may see the beginning of the nightmare situation of which Lord Shacks spoke. History both ancient and modern denotes it's a very slippery slope when the State believes it has the authority to dictate to the Churches what to teach.

There is yet other legal obstacles, homosexuality and lesbianism is a known unhealthy risky life styles. Studies in the 1980's suggested that male homosexuals had an average life expectancy of less than 50 years - more than 20 years less than the overall male population. With the introduction of *'safe'* sex and improved treatments for AIDS, one would expect that the life expectancy might have increased. However, a Canadian study in 1997 found that male homosexuals still have a life expectancy of 20 years less than the general male population (*Cameron P. 2002. Homosexual partnerships and homosexual longevity*) A study, published in 2002, found that the median age of death of 88 homosexually partnered men was 45 years old, while for 118 unpartnered homosexual men it was 46 years (*Cameron, C. and K. Cameron. Federal Distortion of Homosexual Footprint Ignoring Early Gay Death? Family Research Institute.*)

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Independent studies in the Netherlands also indicate homosexual behaviour significantly increases the likelihood of psychiatric, mental and emotional disorders among the youth.

1. Four times more likely to suffer major depression.
2. Three times as likely to suffer generalized anxiety disorder.
3. Four times as likely to experience conduct disorder.
4. Four times as likely to commit suicide.
5. Five times as likely to have nicotine dependence.
6. Six times as likely to suffer multiple disorders.

(Theo G.M. Sandfort, T. Graaf, R. Bijl, R. Schnabel, P. 2001. *Same-Sex Sexual Behaviour and Psychiatric Disorders: Findings from the Netherlands Mental Health Survey and Incidence. Archives of General Psychiatry* 58: 85-91)

Further self condemning evidence is that Gay researchers in Canada confirm the findings and have ironically filed a complaint with the Canadian Human Rights Commission, charging the nation's entire healthcare system with homophobia, demanding more money is spent on "endemic Gay health issues." (Extra Canada's Gay and Lesbian News

http://www.xtra.ca/public/National/Canadas_healthcare_system_is_homophobic_says_group-6314.aspx)

The question arises, is it legal for the Australian Government to knowingly promote an unhealthy high risk life style? Especially for schools to promote as the norm a lifestyle that reduces life expectancy to that, or below that of an Australian Aboriginal, which is the second lowest rate in the world only surpassed by China. ('Life of Aborigines second worst on earth', www.theage.com.au, 28/4/2004)

The Gay lobby has been promoting the idea that gay relationships are the same as heterosexual marriages. One headline read 'Married and Gay Couples Not All that Different' then claimed they 'We're the couple next door.' Paula Ettelbrick exposed that idea when she wrote 'As a lesbian, **I am fundamentally different from non-lesbian women. In arguing for the right to legal marriage, lesbians and gay men would be forced to claim that we are just like heterosexual couples, have the same goals and purposes, and vow to structure our lives similarly. We must keep our eyes on the goals of providing true alternatives to marriage and of radically reordering society's views of reality.**' (Paula Ettelbrick, "Since When Is Marriage a Path to Liberation?", in William Rubenstein, ed., *Lesbians, Gay Men and the Law* (New York: The New Press, 1993), pp. 401-405.)

The evidence indicates that 'committed'" homosexual relationships are radically different from married couples in three key respects:

1. Duration of Relationships

Many studies have been conducted into the duration of Gay relationships, the conclusions are summed up by the following quotes:-

"Typical gay city inhabitants spend most of their adult lives in 'transactional' relationships, or short-term commitments of less than six months (Adrian Brune,

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"City Gays Skip Long-term Relationships: Study Says," *Washington Blade* February 27, 04: 12.)

"Few homosexual relationships last longer than two years, with many men reporting hundreds of lifetime partners." (M. Pollak, "Male Homosexuality," in *Western Sexuality: Practice and Precept in Past and Present Times*, ed. P. Aries and A. Bejin, translated by Anthony Forster (New York, NY: B. Blackwell, 1985): 40-61, cited by Joseph Nicolosi in *Reparative Therapy of Male Homosexuality* (Northvale, New Jersey: Jason Aronson Inc., 1991): 124, 125

2. Promiscuity

Many independent studies have been conducted into the promiscuity of Gay relationships and could be cited. However two quotes will suffice for this submission. William Aaron said **'In the gay life, fidelity is almost impossible. Since part of the compulsion of homosexuality seems to be a need on the part of the homophile to "absorb" masculinity from his sexual partners, he must be constantly on the lookout for [new partners]. Consequently the most successful homophile "marriages" are those where there is an arrangement between the two to have affairs on the side while maintaining the semblance of permanence in their living arrangement.** (William Aaron, *Straight* New York: Bantam Books, 1972: 208.)

Andrew Sullivan wrote **'that homosexual sex relationships are superior to husband and wife marriage because of the homosexual's capacity to understand the 'need' for 'outside' relationships.** (Andrew Sullivan, *Virtually Normal: An Argument About Homosexuality* New York: Vintage Books, 1995, 1996). He then goes in another publication implying that adulterous 'swinging' or 'polyluv' should similarly be accepted in the heterosexual lifestyle. A practice whereby **'one feels glad' that your 'mate' is with another.** (They Call it Polyluv," *The New York Times Magazine*, Feb. 16, 1997, Section 6, p. 15.)

3. Domestic Violence

Once more the myth that domestic violence in 'Gay relationships' is less or about the same as heterosexual relationships is exposed by scholarly research. A survey of over a thousand lesbian relationships, found that slightly **more than half reported that they had been abused by a female partner.** (Gwat Yong Lie and Sabrina Gentlewarrier, "Intimate Violence in Lesbian Relationships: Discussion of Survey Findings and Practice Implications," *Journal of Social Service Research* 15 (1991): 46.)

'Incidents of domestic violence among gay men is nearly double that in the heterosexual population.' (William C. Nichols, et al, editors, *Handbook of Family Development and Intervention* (New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 2000): 393).

As the right honorable Senators review the bill, I trust they will review the evidence and not the spin. The gay lobby has perfected the image of *'the couple next door'* until one disagrees with them. Then the true nature of the beast appears, the intimidation, the bullying, the threats, (even death threats), the belittling and aggressively shouting down

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of dissenting voices. All practices perfected in the early years of such organizations as Oswald Mosley's Black Shirts.

To conclude my submission I again quote Paula Ettelbrick "*Being queer means pushing the parameters of sex, sexuality, and family, and in the process, **transforming the very fabric of society.** We must keep our eyes on the goals of providing true alternatives to marriage and **of radically reordering society's view of reality.***" ("Since When Is Marriage a Path to Liberation?", William Rubenstein, ed., *Lesbians, Gay Men and the Law* New York: The New Press, 1993, pp. 401-405.)

Australia needs the Senators to support the traditional family, the foundation of our society from those that wish to radically 'reorder' and 'transform' it to satisfy their own agendas.

Yours Sincerely

Chris Marshall