

To: Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
Parliament House
Canberra

Dear Senators

Recently made aware of the Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee's work in reference to the Marriage Equality Bill 2010 which is currently still before parliament. I am grateful that the committee has called for public submissions. I wish to outline here why I believe that it is in the interests of Australian Federal Parliament to maintain marriage as it currently stands; namely as an institution between one man and one woman.

The Marriage Act (Commonwealth) 1961 was amended in 2004, with bi-partisan support, to define in legislation the understanding that in our community marriage is the union of a man and a woman, to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life. The Coalition believes that the majority of Australian community still agree with this definition. I support the Coalition's perspective on this matter. Any intention to change the special status of marriage ought to involve a national plebiscite before proceeding.

First and foremost I would like to say that in my previous communications with federal parliamentarians, I pointed out that France has resisted same-sex marriage out of its primary concern for children. In my view these concerns are paramount, but not the only reason for my opposing same-sex marriage. But this is the issue I wish to address here.

As a teacher the changes to marriage law with the Family Law Act 1975 have brought enormous changes to society. For example, as a teacher at one local South Australian High School, on average, in each class with 30 students, there are only 2 students who have a mother and father who live together. Consequently, as teachers joking say among their peers, the main subject that many teachers are involved with is behaviour management. Educational standards are increasingly slipping in many schools. However, there is clear evidence that with the increasing normalisation of homosexuality, increased rates of family breakdown would be expected to occur still further. Dr Stanley Kurtz has documented this disturbing connection. Please carefully consider the information Dr Kurtz presents. Three articles of his stand out for consideration:

* *The End of Marriage in Scandinavia. The Conservative Case for Same-Sex Marriage Collapses*

<http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/003/660zypwj.asp>

* *Going Dutch*

<http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/004/126qodro.asp?pg=1>

* *Smoking Gun*

<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/217803/smoking-gun/stanley-kurtz>

To some extent, indicators for further breakdown are already being displayed within our schools. The SHine sex education program was introduced in South Australian schools approximately 5 years ago. The SHine sex education program ostensibly presents as equality for homosexuality. Simultaneously however the SHine program is largely silent about the traditional values of fidelity. Hence the SHine sex education program in reality represents a

dominance of homosexual values over traditional ones. Not surprisingly, students are more sexually active in adolescence than they were prior to this course's introduction. And as a consequence, significant increases in student absenteeism have occurred. For many schools this has gone up from 10%, prior to the courses introduction, to between 25% to 33% each day.

In particular I would like to point out the absurdity of the Green's position in relation to same-sex marriage. The Green's desire to remove the clause from the marriage act '*cleaving to the other as long as you both shall live*' was very telling about their understanding of the nature of homosexual relations. "*Sexual promiscuity is one of the most striking and distinguishing features of gay life*" wrote homosexual authors Silverstein and White in their book '*Joy of Gay Sex*'. An exhaustive 1978 Kinsey report found very high rates of homosexual encounters with different partners. 79% in this report said that more than half their partners were strangers. Bell and Weinberg, in their book '*Homosexualities: A Study of Diversity Among Men and Women*' found that the average homosexual had 550 sexual partners in the course of a lifetime. It is little wonder then that extraordinarily low take up rates exist for same-sex marriage amongst homosexuals, in the few - so called *progressive* - overseas states which have adopted this policy.

Thank you for this opportunity to present my concerns in relation to the Marriage Equality Bill 2010. Should the committee wish to speak with me further, particularly in relation to my experiences as a teacher, I am only too happy to oblige.

Yours sincerely
Christopher McNicol