

Dear Parliamentarian

I urge you to vote in the party room to have the Liberal Party maintain its support for marriage, defined as between one man and one woman only.

This is the current Liberal Party policy, and has always been Liberal Party policy. Please recall that the Marriage Amendment Act 2004 was a Coalition initiative and not subject to a "conscience vote". Liberal parliamentarians are elected to reflect the party's policies and a conscience vote is a substantial policy shift away from the established Liberal Party position and is therefore unconscionable.

Marriage creates a legal union between a man and a woman, providing permanence in their relationship and establishing legal bonds between parents and their children, for the benefit of the parents, children and society. Children have a natural right to a mother and a father.

Redefining marriage, as proposed by The Greens and Labor, attacks the nature of marriage itself. Firstly, it would radically redefine the marriages of all Australians and secondly, sever the intrinsic connection between marriage and children.

A "conscience vote" would demonstrate a disregard for traditional Coalition policy, a lack of confidence in marriage itself and say that the Coalition is no longer capable of protecting the basic right of children to know and be raised by their biological parents.

This makes the "equality" argument for homosexual marriage a betrayal of the truth. Marriage is about eligibility not equality. Marriage is about complementarity. A dining room setting cannot not be complete without tables and chairs. Two tables can never make a dining setting in a home nor can two chairs. Marriage is all about a man and a woman. Marriage is what it is and no amount of political correctness can change it.

By standing firm on this policy the Coalition will also demonstrate policy integrity in direct contrast to the Government. It will also demonstrate that it is not captive of the Greens.

Voters expect the Coalition to honour its 2010 election promise to maintain marriage between one man and one woman.

For the vast majority of Australians, same-sex marriage is a low priority. Among those who feel strongly about the issue, more are opposed (18%) than in favour (14%), according to comprehensive polling by the Ambrose Centre in 2011.

This study also found that 69 per cent of Australians believe that we should uphold the traditional meaning of marriage, because marriage between a man and a woman, and them having children together, is an important social institution.

It is critical that the Coalition firmly supports the current definition of marriage, and rejects the false polemic of a so-called "conscience vote".

Best regards  
Grace Tse