

DR ADAM WEBSTER  
Lecturer

ADELAIDE LAW SCHOOL  
FACULTY OF THE PROFESSIONS

LIGERTWOOD BUILDING  
THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE  
SA 5005  
AUSTRALIA

TELEPHONE +61 8 8313 0573 or  
+61 430 955 794  
FACSIMILE +61 8 8313 4344  
adam.webster@adelaide.edu.au  
CRICOS Provider Number 00123M

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Dear Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Secretariat,

### **Response to Senator Moore's Question on Notice**

At the Committee hearing yesterday, Senator Moore asked what measures could be put in place to ensure that the public debate over same sex marriage is conducted in a respectful manner in the lead up to any plebiscite.

It is my submission that this question highlights why Parliament should deal with this matter directly (and without a plebiscite).

If the matter is dealt with directly by the Parliament, Members and Senators can take the lead in ensuring a respectful and meaningful debate by modelling such behaviour in the Parliament. To date, Members and Senators have largely engaged in debate on this issue in a respectful manner. Guidelines already exist that regulate Members' and Senators' conduct and conduct that is unparliamentary can be dealt with under the standing orders.

In my view, this provides further practical reasons as to why the matter should be dealt with directly by the Parliament.

I would be most grateful if you could provide a copy of my response to the question on notice to Senator Moore.

Yours faithfully,



DR ADAM WEBSTER