

Dear Senate Committee,

I would like to state in the strongest terms my opposition to any attempt to alter the definition or status of marriage in our society.

Marriage should continue to be defined as the union of a man and a woman and this is not discriminatory – it simply reflects the natural and historical reality that marriage is the union of a man and a woman. Any redefinition would undermine marriage, to the detriment of our society as a whole.

Of primary concern is the fact that, in an effort to gain 'equality' for the very small percentage of Australia's population which identifies itself as gay, it seems to me that the interests and rights of future children are being ignored. In this, Australia would also be ignoring its obligations as a signatory to the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child, which states that a child must not, "save in the most exceptional circumstances, be separated from his mother". The 'marriage' of two men and subsequent surrogacy of a child would do exactly that, in a premeditated way. Why should any child live without a mother, purely to satisfy the desire of two men to have a baby of their own? It seems to me that the interests and selfishness of adults are taking precedence over the rights and needs of a child. It is becoming increasingly clear, through both studies and the personal stories of many people, that there is damage inflicted on children who grow up without one or other biological parent. While in many cases this is unavoidable, through death or desertion, it seems to me criminally stupid, as well as cruel, for a government to legislate to make this happen.

Governments should seek to preserve and protect marriage as a unique institution because of the benefits it provides for children, for adults and for society as a whole. A large number of Australians hold marriage between a man and woman sacred and their views ought to be respected.

I urge you to respect the views of the many people who have urged the government to preserve marriage as a union between one man and one woman, entered into voluntarily for life.

Yours sincerely,