Inquiry into the status of the human right to freedom of religion or belief Submission 17

The move to enact laws that would allow Same Sex Marriage will have a profound effect on those people and organisations who believe that marriage is the union of one man and one woman, if they express their belief or cannot comply with anti-discrimination laws.

The enjoyment of freedom of religion and belief will be strongly compromised by redefining marriage as being other than between one man and one woman.

As has already happened in other countries where marriage has been redefined, those whose actions disagree with such new laws, have been regarded as being discriminatory and subject to prosecution.

Instances have already occurred in Australia where a complaint and prosecutions have been made against those who have expressed opinions opposing same sex marriage.

To have freedom of religion and belief means the right to practice that religion, to worship, to speak about matters that conflict with one's conscience, the right to decide the education of one's children, to decide how you run your business, and to employ or be employed all without the fear of breaking anti-discrimination laws on the grounds of a person's sexual identity.