

**Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
Inquiry into Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2012
& the Marriage Amendment Bill 2012**

29-3-12

Dear Committee Members

Please allow me to share with you some thoughts on the proposed changes to Marriage laws. Many I realise you may not agree with ~ I would welcome any reply from you, regardless of your stance on the complex issues. I understand this issue is continuing in this months parliamentary sessions.

Respectfully.

Ken Roche

Re: Marriage Laws

As a society, we all need to do everything in our power to help everyone...yes, homosexuals and straits, to grow in understanding of each other. But can we really afford to confuse 'self' with 'society'?

I thought Laws were about 'moral' issues, not simply equality.

Males:

One of the biggest threats, should we go any further to legitimising same sex relationships, is the impact this can have on males in particular. Research indicates that many males in their early teens do not have a clear focus on the opposite sex with regard to their sexuality. Normalising homosexuality any more than it already is, robs these developing citizens of the normal maturation process of working through this to the point where they understand and appreciate the opposite sex.

Laws:

These particular law changes are looking more like "social engineering" than any form of personal freedom, and have become very much a political push. Isn't it time to think less with our bodies, and more with our minds? Shouldn't decisions regarding laws be based on wisdom, rather than personal choice or the loudest voice?

It's not possible to truly assess the feelings of Australians regarding this matter, without putting such an important issue to a full public vote. Until this is done we are only guessing.

Core Values:

I would certainly be happier with a Government that was a strong supporter of true core values-- one still able to recognise the importance of the only type of relationship that legitimately, naturally

produces children (I know many don't accept this argument, but it remains undeniable fact)

I'm certainly not saying couples of all persuasions can't make good parents, but is changing our

established Marriage Laws, the best, or right, or way to go?

Other Parenting issues:

Various studies conclude it is almost totally impossible for same-sex parents to impart the

essential balance of emotions and experiences necessary to developing young lives. Of interest here

are the figures that inform us that the greater number of males in prisons tend to come from a fatherless

home environment. I think this is more a comment however, on how much work governments and communities

need to do to restore and support, the idea of a strong commitment to hetero-sexual relationships also.

Bi-sexuality etc:

Fun is fine, but too often, numerous forms of highly irresponsible media, promote some of the more

suspect forms of sexual experimentation. Just one, that's offering risk to health, would be associated with

the growing trend of bi-sexuality. This can only escalate as people experiment with a legalised,

'whatever-you-like' approach to values. Today's, so-called 'bisexuality' is fast becoming more about

'selfish gratification', than any 'biological' state. The last thing Australian society needs are laws that,

inadvertently or otherwise, will sadly serve to promote various forms of socially unhealthy practices.

Contentious Views:

Through carefully orchestrated multi-media interviews, self oriented groups capitalise on their ability

to spread highly-contentious points of view. One view constantly put forward is; "that young people know it's all right."

But how do our young know this?...the majority of young people have little real life experience,

and unfortunately from too early an age many have been influenced by multiple forms of freely

available Pornography, and sensationalised media. Some of the more intelligent, along with the

better informed, will hopefully be wise enough to look above these elements.

Others unfortunately will simply stumble forward, often learning too late.

Legal Protection:

Protect the 'legal' rights of those who follow their natural or personal preferences, but please don't alter laws that underpin our society and serve as a balance to community health.

There could be introduced a parallel legislation with similar entitlement protection, or call it by another name....?

With Respects

Ken Roche