



## Family Council of Victoria



### AFFILIATES

Australian  
Christians

CultureWatch

Dalgarno Institute

Drug Advisory  
Council of Australia  
Inc

Endeavour Forum  
Inc

Family Federation  
for World Peace  
and Unification

FamilyVoice  
Australia

Focus on the  
Family - Australia

Human Life  
International

Knights of  
Southern Cross VIC

Rise Up Australia  
Party

WCTU Drug-Free  
Lifestyles

### CONSULTANTS

Foster Carers

Religious Liberty  
Monitoring

Victims of Abortion

### **Committee Secretary**

Select Committee on the Exposure Draft of the Marriage Amendment  
(Same-Sex Marriage) Bill

Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100

**CANBERRA ACT 2600**

Dear Secretary

### **RE – THE MARRIAGE AMENDMENT BILL**

The Family Council of Victoria has grave concerns that Ministers of Religion, Marriage Celebrants and Religious organizations will be the targets of vilification and subsequent legal action due to further amendments in support of same-sex marriage once the process has begun. Precedents have been made in other countries where same-sex marriage has been legalised and the previous guarantees of protection for religious ministers and organizations were challenged and amended to exclude any exemptions whatsoever.

Due to what has happened in other jurisdictions, there is little doubt that people of conscience or religious conviction will lose their freedoms and be forced to celebrate an activity that causes them anguish and psychological pain. In some cases, individual businesses have been bankrupted by such laws and the owners jailed for failing to support same-sex marriage. The Australian Government must not create laws that *contradict freedom of conscience and personal liberty*. Any attempt to create a law that limits guaranteed (*as specified in the Australian Constitution*) personal freedoms would be detrimental to the public and especially to anyone in the marriage/wedding industry.

The Family Council of Victoria recommends that the Select Committee rejects the Bill as it will conflict with personal liberty and freedom of conscience – a right which is guaranteed under our Constitution and International Law.

Yours Sincerely,

Michael Treacy  
President.  
Family Council of Victoria  
[www.fcv.org.au](http://www.fcv.org.au)

Monday, 9 January 2017



## Family Council of Victoria



### The purposes of the Council are:

- **to cultivate community appreciation for and understanding of the natural family (*hereafter known as “the family”*) as the fundamental and essential unit of society. The natural family is defined as a married man and woman in a life-long committed and loving relationship as the foundation to nurture, love and educate children to have a wholesome character, a clear sense of gender identity and respect for others;**
  - **To promote community support for the institution of the family;**
  - **To strengthen relationships between parents and children;**
  - **To promote Government policy in support of traditional family life;**
- **to support initiatives taken by other organisations and individuals in support of the family; and**
  - **to undertake and encourage research on family issues.**