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MARRIAGE EQUALITY AMENDMENT Bill 2012

Committee Secretary

Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

I have two important reasons to support this Bill

Reason 1 Stability for children and for adults

Marriage promotes the stability of both the couple and all children within that relationship.

It is important to promote stable long term relationships for the support of all parties within the family unit. Stable families are the basis of our society, civilisation and Australia. All stable societies are built on the basis of stable family units. History has demonstrated that where the family unit breaks down the society disintegrates into decadence and anarchy very quickly. Promoting the ability of all people to achieve stable legally recognised family units will not undermine the stability of marriage for straight people. Refusing to legalise relationships between gay, lesbian and other people will contribute to their remaining marginalised outside the societal norm of stable legally recognised long term relationships. Promoting marriage equality will strengthen our Australian society by strengthening it's core building block "The Family".

Children raised within a stable family structure achieve better lives and are less dysfunctional. These children contribute more to society and cost society less in terms of judicial and educational correction. They achieve their full potential as people and as productive citizens. I have noticed that lesbian and gay couples in stable long term relationships want to extend their relationship with the natural expression of that relationship, children. I, as a sperm donor to lesbians, have observed the health, happiness and emotional maturity of my children with two mothers. Legalising marriage between lesbian and gay couples will firstly enhance the security of their children. Secondly by marriage it will allow men such as myself, who want to help lesbians achieve their raison d'être as people to morph into parents, an ability to determine if children are an essential next step in expanding the relationship.

Reason 2 Past inequality corrections within Australia

Australia has historically many times redefined equality of belonging within our society.

I see this bill as a continuation of that tradition in attempting to identify and correct what is now seen as discrimination.

Past corrections have concerned: a) The right of women to vote, b) The rights of women to be separate legal entities from their husbands, c) The right of all applicants to citizenship to be treated equally (removal of prejudice towards non British immigrants), d) The right of Aborigines to be counted as citizens. e) The right of parents to equality before the courts in custody of children in divorce, f) The equality of entrance tests for prospective migrants.

As our society changes we the people as a whole, or just sections of society recognise as discrimination and injustices principles that were once previously accepted as societal norms. This discrimination, previously accepted as normal and right, was against either a majority (women) or a minority (aborigines) section of our society. It was even recognised against people who were not yet even members of our society (prospective migrants). At each previous point of recognition and conflict there were people who argued that the change would be beneficial and people who argued that the change would be detrimental to Australian society. However, the underlying principle that governed the debate was always the idea that equality is for all people. Equality for women, equality for aborigines or even equality for people not even part of Australia like prospective migrants “for those who come across the sea we’ve boundless plains to share” .

I submit that the Marriage Amendment Bill is an identification of discrimination and an attempt to rectify that discrimination. I submit that this Bill is a continuation of the core value and definition of what being Australian constitutes. That value being equality for all under law and as such I support the law being changed.

John Lindsay Mayger