

## Submission to Senate Inquiry into the Greens Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2010

The reality of the situation is that we have a very vocal bunch of activists pushing for 'gay marriage'. Why should we listen to them, because they are so persistent, because they villify those against them... or because they have a valid case. Obviously it should only be the latter.

What the issue is really about is MARRIAGE - what is marriage and what is it good for? Do we even need to keep it around anymore? If it's just a romantic thing to do, "a piece of paper", then yes sure, let's go ahead and change it any way we see fit, as it's just for our enjoyment. As I grew up in Australia, without a sense of what values to follow, we didn't really know what marriage was for, and over time, it became more and more prevalent that marriage was just not really necessary, just partner up, live together etc.

However, there is just a sense inside me, that it's not really right. That somehow, marriage IS important. That psychologists may argue both ways for the value of man and woman marriage to people and children, and some arguing it's irrelevance, but actually it really is important to our society, and to peoples lives and their childrens.

Saying 'lets progress' is not an argument that can be used to change everything willy nilly. Progress means improving things.

It's so clear to me that a child is meant to have a mum and a dad. That they are meant to raise that child, and help it become an adult. I don't think we are that great in doing this, and educating ourselves on relationships and values would help! There is much brokenness in our nation already, much pain, because of the lack of recognition of the responsibility of mum and dad to their children. Our selfishness just leads to more pain, and the cycle continues.

So I say, let's protect marriage. Let's not open it to any two people, and later then have to once again change it to any number of people, and eventually any number of entities.

It's a rational decision to recognise the importance of marriage between a man and a woman, and protect it.

I hope that out of this whole 'debate' people would genuinely ask "what's marriage all about anyway?" and come up with the truth, and not what we've been peddle for so long - that marriage is just a selfish/romantic thing.

No, marriage is a strong way of ensuring people are bound in and go through the growth we as people need, as we stick it out loving and cherishing the person we promised to do that to. It's meant to be a place of security and safety for them, and for their children if any.

Further, since 'equality' for gay couples has already been granted extensively in law in Australia, the question is "why do gay's want to 'marry' ?". The answer is not strong.. it's about being treated the same, about love, about acceptance. Treatment is already the same in law, love and acceptance are already fine - and many people opt for just "living together", gays and non gays alike. So the motivation is just selfish. No, gays can't say to each other "will you marry me?"... but they can say.. "will you be mine?" "will you be my partner?" "will you live with me?" etc.

Please don't bow to the forcefulness of the 'gay marriage lobby'. Please consider carefully the future of our nation. Please support families and children.

Thanks and Regards  
Paul Joswig

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