

**SUBMISSION TO MARRIAGE EQUALITY AMENDMENT BILL 2010
BY DAVID FORSTER**

To save your time and mine, I state from the outset that I am totally opposed to any change to the Marriage Act 1961 as this will further weaken the traditional concept of marriage, which has been essential to the development and prosperity of this nation.

I believe that the outcome of this inquiry has already been decided in favour of changing the definition of marriage to include same sex couples and that my submission, being against this intended outcome, will be reduced to no more than a statistic among the number of submissions 'against', so I won't waste your time and mine.

I could produce voluminous evidence and supporting references to support the following statement, however, I am merely going to make one point: that marriage, as it is traditionally understood (between one man and one woman for the whole of life), has supported the prospering of peoples everywhere, including this nation, ever since people inhabited this planet. As they say 'if it ain't broken, why fix it'.

Marriage was established to provide a safe and stable means of creating and rearing children, the lifeblood of every nation and culture. Where it has been promoted and protected, those societies have prospered, where it has not been protected, societies have languished. History shows this, Australia being but one example.

The advent of 'easy' divorce in 1975 removed one of the main pillars of marriage, that of lifelong commitment, which irreversibly weakened marriage and families. Our society is now seeing the results of this in so many ways including increased rates of suicide, poverty, substance abuse, community violence and sky-rocketing welfare payments. Removal of the next pillar of marriage, an exclusive union of one man and one woman, will further change it – irreversibly.

Homosexual relationships cannot create children. They are not the same as heterosexual relationships so not including them in the definition of marriage is not discrimination - they are fundamentally and irreversibly different and no amount of pretending otherwise will change this. To legislate such a change will merely cement this deception into our culture and the results will be more of the same – much more.

I can't help thinking this is the intent of this bill.

Yours faithfully

David Forster