



Marriage Equality and Marriage Amendment Bills Public Hearing in Sydney

The Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2012 and the Marriage Amendment Bill 2012 will be in the spotlight this week, with a public hearing to be held in Sydney this Thursday (12 April 2012).

Both bills seek to repeal the definition of marriage and substitute the words “a man and a woman” with the words “two people”, and to recognise same-sex marriages conducted overseas.

Chair of the House of Representatives Social Policy and Legal Affairs Committee, Graham Perrett MP, said the committee will meet with a range of people and groups to discuss the bills.

“This is an important issue and many individuals and groups want to have their say,” Mr Perrett said.

“It’s also vital that we explore the relevant legal issues, such as the parliament’s marriage power and the legal ramifications of the proposed amendments.”

Religious bodies, lawyers, celebrants, human rights organisations and advocacy groups will be represented at the public hearing.

Public Hearing Program
10.00am – 5.00pm
Thursday, 12 April 2012
Macquarie Room
NSW Parliament House
Macquarie Street, Sydney

The hearing is open to the public, but seating is limited. The proceedings will be webcast live at http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament and a transcript of the proceedings will be made available at www.aph.gov.au/marriage in the following week.

The Committee invites the public to have their say on the two marriage bills by participating in its online survey at www.aph.gov.au/marriage until 20 April 2012. The survey responses will be provided to the Committee as part of the evidence for this inquiry. The Committee anticipates tabling its report on 18 June 2012.

For further information please visit the Committee website www.aph.gov.au/marriage

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Graham Perrett MP, on (07) 3344 2622 or 0408 883 312.

For background information, please contact the **Secretariat of the Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs**:

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