



Convener: Rev DJ Palmer
Secretary: Rev A Satchell

PO Box 4215
Black Rock North Victoria 3193
☎ (03) 9521 6024

21st August 2009

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600 Australia

Dear Sir or Madam,

Inquiry into the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009

I am writing on behalf of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria which has 150 congregations throughout the State of Victoria.

I write to lodge the objection of the Church and her members against Senator Sarah Hanson-Young's *Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009*.

Senator Hanson-Young's bill would radically alter the definition of marriage so that any two people, regardless of gender, could 'marry'. Same-sex marriage will undermine marriage because it equates any loving relationship between any two consenting adults as 'marriage'.

Marriage as defined in the *Marriage Amendment Act 2004* as *the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life*, has formed the bedrock of civilisation from earliest known times, sanctified by the teaching of the Bible: *Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.* (Genesis 2:24)

The aims of the *Bill* to the contrary, are to recognise 'freedom of sexuality' and to celebrate 'diversity'. These are not the values of marriage, which upholds commitment and fidelity between a man and a woman and provides a time honoured environment for the stable nurturing of children, so that in time they will grow up mature and find respectively, husbands and wives and form their own families.

I therefore urge the Committee against recommending the *Bill* to the Senate.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'DJ Palmer'.