



# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Para Vista Inc

388 Montague Road, Para Vista

18<sup>th</sup> August 2009

The Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional  
Affairs Committee  
P.O. Box 6100  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Secretary,

I am writing to you in reference to the *Marriage Equality Amendment Bill* which was referred to your committee in June this year for public enquiry.

As the senior pastor and on behalf of our church which has a membership in excess of 800 people I submit the following points to be considered by your committee.

I would like to begin by saying that we do understand why there is a need to have legislation to ensure that people in all forms of relationship have their rights protected. However, in affirming this we cannot support any moves that flow out of this seeking to recognize and endorse same sex marriage.

We see the following reasons for not supporting same sex marriages-

Firstly, marriage between a man and a woman supports the family and is the foundation for society. Same sex marriage will undermine this foundation.

Secondly, the family is based on Traditional Marriage is the best place to raise children. Children grow and develop best when they have both a mother and father as their primary care providers.

Thirdly, opening marriage to other relationships devalues the social standing of marriage. Marriage between a man and a woman provides the foundation for a healthy society. When Traditional Marriage is devalued our whole society suffers.

Thank you for this opportunity to present our submission.

Yours truly,

Pastor Noel Kluge  
Senior Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Para Vista SA 5093

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**Reaching into the community with gospel that all may know Jesus and worship him.**