

*Catholic Women's League of Victoria & Wagga Wagga  
Inc.*

*Social Questions Committee*

*Mary Glowrey House,  
132 Nicholson Street,  
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*Submission to the Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
on  
Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009*

The members of the Catholic Women's League of Victoria & Wagga Wagga Inc. totally oppose the Marriage Amendment Bill 2009. The core value of traditional marriage is between one man and one woman and their ability to procreate which has stood the test of time. It existed long before states and governments recognised it.

This Bill takes 'Social Engineering' to an unacceptable level and trivialises marriage and the family. Equating sexuality and gender identity with marriage effectively nullifies its true meaning. Marriage between a man and a woman acknowledges the truth of what it is about. It is not about the celebration and acceptance of diversity of the number of genders now promulgated by the United Nations.

We recently conducted a survey amongst 154 members who came from the 5 Dioceses. 15 members were single ladies and so only answered Questions 2 & 3. Members were asked:-

1. Number of years married?
2. Do you believe that the term 'husband and wife' is discriminatory?
3. Do you agree that the term 'husband and wife' should be replaced by the words 'two people'?

The results were:

1. Total number of years married - 5,729 years.
2. All stated that the term 'husband and wife' was not discriminatory.
3. All rejected replacing the term 'husband and wife' with the words 'two persons'.

As we have already had our status as 'Spouse' taken away from us in the recent amendments made to 84 pieces of Commonwealth legislation to appease a small group within society we strongly object to the deletion of 'husband and wife' from the Marriage Act.

For members of the many generations in Australia, deleting the term 'husband and wife' is a total insult to their own marriages, to their husbands, grandparents and married brothers and sisters especially to those who served in WW1, WW2, Korea, Vietnam and now their married grandchildren and great grandchildren who have and are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Marriage between a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others discriminates on the basis of what is right and proper and for the common good of society. Marriage is denied to many people, not just same-sex couples. It is denied to a brother and sister, father and daughter, father and son, two sisters, mother and son or mother and daughter to name just a few.

Currently polygamy is against the law here in Australia. Polygamy degrades women and reduces them to nothing more than slaves for the sexual benefit of a man. De facto relationships have proven to be disastrous for many young children which have resulted in their deaths.

Procreation by people of the same sex is impossible. A male and a female are required for natural consummation and procreation within a family. Regardless of the situation, the genetic bond between mother, father and children always remains. Our Prime Minister apologised to the Stolen Generation. Who will apologise to the children who are produced using a variety of genetic tissues via surrogacy or IVF to satisfy the wants of same sex couples when, as adults, this 'produced generation' try to trace their heritage! It is about time governments stopped playing with nature because as we know, nature never forgets.

While research shows that same sex attraction can occur because of early childhood abuse, overbearing mothers and the lack of a father figure, same sex attraction is not genetic, it is choice. Research is quite clear on this issue. Even gay activists admit this. Many, many homosexual men have chosen to change their lifestyles and reverted to the heterosexual lifestyle, have married women and had children. Homosexuality is a lifestyle issue, not a human rights issue.

Women and men are equal but are not the same. Mothers are women and fathers are men. To allow same-sex couples to bring up children makes motherhood and fatherhood meaningless.

When a political party deletes policy that protects marriage it is obvious where political correctness and social engineering is headed in Australia.

This same party supports the enactment of legislation that prohibits discrimination on the basis of a person's sexual orientation. Paedophilia is a sexual orientation. The worst case scenario is two paedophiles marrying and then organising a surrogate woman to provide them with children. Possible! Absolutely.

When the people in California opposed same-sex marriage through Proposition 8 which was the legally correct way to challenge the 'judicial ruling' on same-sex marriages, ordinary citizens were targeted by gay activists while churches and peoples houses were attacked. The people's vote which was democratic is now being challenged. Tolerance it would seem is a one way street.

Therefore, we strongly urge the committee to reject the "Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009 in its entirety.

Let Australia set a standard that other countries can follow by rejecting same-sex marriage. In every country that has allowed such marriages, it is the ordinary people who end up in court when, because of their conscience they refuse to take photographs at same-sex weddings, refuse to accept homosexuals in their B.&B'S, refuse to hire halls for same-sex functions. An English lawyer who refused a case to assist a homosexual man to bring his same-sex partner to England but referred him to a lawyer who took the case and won, was then sued by the homosexual man. He took the case to the European Court of Human Rights. The lawyer lost the case. Is this the sort of justice the majority of citizens can expect if this Bill is passed? What of our 'free speech'?

This Bill is not about equality. It is about Power, power to corrupt our children both in mind and body.

**The amendments to the Marriage Act 1961 are arrant nonsense.**

Mrs. Madge Fahy,  
Social Questions Committee