



# Australian Institute of Family Counselling Ltd

Excellence in Christian Counselling Training

27<sup>th</sup> August, 2009.

The Secretary,  
The Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee,  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA, ACT, 2600.

Dear Mr. Hallahan,

Re: Inquiry into the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009.

Reference is made to this private member's bill which is being introduced by a Green's Senator. This organisation is vehemently opposed to the bill for the following reasons:

1. This organisation is focused upon training people to help support families and individuals and unashamedly incorporates Christian principles into the training. The legitimisation of same sex unions is contrary to our beliefs and the good order of society.
2. The proposal of this bill ignores the effect that same sex marriages/unions have on the children of this land. Children are already traumatised by break down of relationships and by society's scant regard to them. Children being brought up by a same sex couple will not have the whole balanced portrayal of proper relationship with mother and father.
3. Before the 2004 election both major political parties reinforced marriage as being between a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others. What has changed since then? We believe that nothing has changed to warrant this matter being raised again.
4. Why are taxpayer's funds being wasted in pursuing this course of action, a course which would give tacit legitimisation to a practice contrary to the normal marriage relationship?
5. Procreation takes place between male and female except in the case of hermaphrodites. Same sex couples cannot produce children without outside intervention. The union of male and female is therefore quite clearly God's plan, or for those who don't believe in a supreme being, the plan of nature. Same sex marriage is therefore not natural and should not be condoned.
6. Many religions, not just Christianity, believe that homosexuality is wrong. Is Australia to legitimise a practice, which is frowned upon by many?
7. Should this bill be passed what is there to stop believers in polygamy from starting a move towards legitimisation of this practice? Imagine the added burden on government coffers if a man's multiple wives were all eligible for benefits.

Most Australians would, in my view, oppose marriage of same sex couples. The committee is urged to strongly recommend against the passage of this bill and the affirmation that marriage is between a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others.

Yours sincerely,

R.J. (John) McPherson,  
Registrar.