

To the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

From GenR8 Schools Ministries, NSW.

GenR8 Schools Ministries opposes the Marriage Equality Bill 2009 because it would completely change a fundamental aspect of the meaning of marriage as understood throughout modern Australian history, and indeed through much of the history of western civilization and more widely. It flies in the face of reality to satisfy a current set of views and lifestyle practices that do not have the long-term health and well-being of society in view in our opinion.

GenR8 Schools Ministries helps equip young people to develop a clear understanding of their God-given nature as human beings made in the image of God, as male and female together reflecting God's nature. We believe the blessings of marriage are found through obedience to the word of God and his revealed will. We utterly reject and repudiate the assumptions underlying this bill about human beings, what is acceptable sexual behaviour, and what makes for a healthy and wholesome society in which young people are brought up effectively to their full humanity.

This bill constitutes an attack on the institution of marriage. The received institution of marriage is, we are convinced, vital for the health and well-being of society. As we interpret the evidence, this attack on the institution of marriage as defined in Australian law is being made in order to satisfy the personal preferences of people whose track record for fidelity in relationships and impact on public health is well documented as being very poor even in jurisdictions where homosexual relationships are given varying degrees of legal recognition.

Marriage is inherently about the conjoining of a man and woman on a lifelong covenantal relationship that builds society at its core. This bill does nothing to strengthen that at a time when such strengthening is needed, but only serves to further weaken the institution of marriage, undermining the interests of people who are married and their children by devaluing the essential quality of the institution. Such a law by devaluing the currency of marriage will only lead to a lower proportion of people seeking the legal, social and emotional support of legal marriage in Australian society.

The exalting of personal preference against the basic interests of society as a whole is repugnant and should be opposed in every way for the general good. One consequence of such a bill being passed in parliament will be the increase in civil disobedience by those who hold to the received understanding of marriage in our society against the provisions and implications of such a law should the bill succeed. It will create offenders for upholding moral right. It in no way serves the general good of society but rather undermines it for the sake of unworkable concepts of group rights which weaken general rights. The supposed rights invoked by its supporters are not clearly established rights acknowledged through concepts of natural law, revelation or proven tested consensus. This proposed legislation, rather, expresses a confusion between rights for the general good, and the pursuit of personal desires.

Yours sincerely,

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