

28 August 2009

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



PO Box 460  
Fullarton SA 5063

P: (08) 8379 0246  
F: (08) 8379 9206  
E: [nccafa@chariot.net.au](mailto:nccafa@chariot.net.au)

## **SUBMISSION REGARDING THE MARRIAGE EQUALITY AMENDMENT BILL 2009**

The National Civic Council supports the definition of marriage as being “the union of one man and one woman, to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life”.

This has always been the understanding of marriage in Australia, both in practice and in common law. Hence, the 2004 amendment, which we supported, simply reaffirmed this definition.

Supporters of so-called “same-sex marriage” may point to suspect opinion polls, but we would respectfully ask the committee to consider the overwhelming (indeed, record) number of submissions received in favour of the 2004 amendment. The amendment was subsequently carried with bipartisan support—something we would like to see maintained.

Furthermore, we ask the committee to consider what role government has in the regulation of relationships. Its interest in marriage must primarily be for the mutual dependence of the couple and the best interest of children. For similar reasons, government also now regulates de facto and “domestic partner”-style relationships.

To regulate a relationship simply on the grounds of emotion, “anti-discrimination” or any other well-meaning but misguided reason is to severely misunderstand the reasons marriage is afforded a special status.

We ask the committee to recommend against the current bill and uphold the traditional definition of marriage.

**Damian Wyld** BA(Hons)  
State President  
National Civic Council (SA)

- Defending *life*
  - Supporting *the family*
    - Assisting *small business*
      - Promoting *the national interest*
        - Fostering *values*