28th August 2009
PO Box 188 Woden ACT 2605

The Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Canberra
ACT   2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

MARRIAGE EQUALITY AMENDMENT BILL

I would ask the committee to reject the Bill in the public interest because marriage is directly related to the welfare and harmony of the nation. All children need a mother and a father to provide the essential nurturing and modelling if our coming generations are to develop into stable, well adjusted, mature, contributing members of the community. All the evidence demonstrates that marriage is a public good and that is members are generally happier, healthier, wealthier and contributing members of the community. This is the reason that marriage has a special status in law and is reserved to a relationship between a male and a female freely entered into for life. Gay people can have a relationship but they by nature therefore are not the nurtures of this countries next generation.

 May I remind the Committee that the primary duty of the government is to protect the family and, by implication, children. Research reveals that children do best on all scores, when raised by their biological mother and father who are committed in marriage to each other.

For the good of society, there are constraints placed on who can marry. You see marriage is not just a personal act – love alone is not enough – it has a social dimension which is essentially linked to the formation of the family and has the inherent responsibility for the building up of society. Same sex relationships of their very nature are personal relationships but they do not contribute to the building up of society and so cannot be equated with marriage.

It my understanding that the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill, sponsored by Senator Sarah Hanson-Young, has as its aim to undo the protection for marriage afforded by the Marriage Amendment Bill 2004which was supported by both major parties and widely welcomed in the community.

 Yours sincerely,

Paul Monagle
President
Australian Family Association ACT