

ATTN: Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
RE: Marriage equality Bill proposed by Senator Hanson-Young

August 22, 2009

Dear Committee Members,

I write to you as an ordinary citizen with an ordinary view of this matter. I do not support Ms. Hanson-Young's Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009 but instead believe that marriage needs to remain a liberty of heterosexual couples, and that overseas homosexual ceremonies should not be recognized as legal marriages within our country.

I am not in a position to judge – but you have been honoured with that privilege and it is important that you consider the real meaning of 'marriage' before making a final decision.

I want to share a few observations I have made about this issue:

Observation 1

Marriage is the most intimate bond between a man and a woman; the very definition of the word includes the heterosexual nature of this act. To change the very meaning of 'marriage' by legalizing non-heterosexual unions would have an effect on our society that could only lead to more confusion and social disarray. We should not be rewriting Laws that may have serious repercussions in the future, when the status quo has proven to be a solid building foundation for our society.

Observation 2

Homosexuality has been a part of human society for thousands of years. Until the last 30 years or so, in not one of these cultures was it seen as natural. In fact, it was condemned as a crime – a sin against one's own body. Why the sudden change of mind? I believe that the media (and therefore whoever has the money backing the media) has slowly but surely infiltrated modern society with their own viewpoint. By creating television series which pointedly portray and celebrate 'alternate lifestyles', they have conditioned the viewers – a younger generation – that homosexuality is just as normal as heterosexuality and therefore needs to be acknowledged by being granted the right to marriage. It is not surprising that Ms. Hanson-Young is of this younger generation (as am I) that has been conditioned to think of homosexuality as a normal option.

If the media can have such a huge impact on our views of sexuality, it is also having a huge impact on our views of 'right and wrong'. I do not want our younger generation to be starved of their ingrained sense of morals and fed the excuse that 'it's okay for me to do this because I have the right to free will'. Too many boundaries are being blurred and this will lead to a breakdown in the overall Law System.

Observation 4

Whether a person is homosexual or heterosexual, they make a clear decision about their sexuality and must accept what it means for them in its entirety. This means that a person who chooses to be heterosexual will be able to have children as a result of their compatible anatomy. A person who chooses homosexuality may enjoy a fulfilling, loving relationship; but as a result of their choice will not be able to have natural children due to their incompatible anatomy. Homosexual people who choose to adopt, or have IVF treatment in order to have children are actually acting against their 'natural' instinct to be homosexual.

Observation 5

Marriage is an institution as old as humankind itself. If you look at it from an evolutionary viewpoint, for the continuity of the species procreation *must* happen, and only through the union of male and female are we able to make offspring. Thus, male and female are attracted to one another; otherwise the species would die out. From a creation viewpoint, humankind was designed to procreate. Thus, male and female naturally belong together. As well as this, there is the Biblical viewpoint. In Genesis chapter 2, the reason for marriage is clearly demonstrated: Eve was made out of Adam's flesh, therefore they are 'one flesh': in this way a man will leave his parents and join in union with his wife.

Observation 6

Pro-'Gay Marriage' lobbyists are trying to 'win' by changing our current Laws. Am I wrong in thinking that this has become a 'we are right and you are wrong' slogging match? That doesn't seem like 'equality' to me. Rather the lobbyists trying to swing the balance so that the minority is treated like the majority, and the majority is disregarded as being 'old-fashioned'. By jumping on the 'equal rights' band-wagon, I know it will eventually destroy our freedom to choose between right and wrong for ourselves.

A large number of middle-aged Australians (such as my parents) do not see a reason to write their letters of submission to you, because they believe the 'utter absurdity' of this Bill is so obvious that it will be voted against immediately. Unfortunately, they do not understand the media's grip on the hearts of young Australians. Seeing other countries (or states within countries) around the world vote otherwise shows me that a lot of the older generations' "common sense" and strong sense of ethics and morals has declined.

In Conclusion

As a younger person, I feel that I should speak up now to uphold Australia's current Law regarding Marriage. If I do not, I know my future children will ask me why I did not try to defend the 'basic unit' that makes up our society. I wish you all the best in making the correct decision for Australia's future. Do not be swayed by what the rest of the world does, but rather look to the deeper values that underpin our Law and Constitution.

Yours faithfully,

D. Close-Katahira