

To the Senate Committee Submissions in charge of submissions pertaining to the *Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009*.

I strongly opposes the Green Party Bill entitled “Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009”, which would legalise same-sex homosexual ‘marriage’ and same-sex lesbian ‘marriage’ in Australia by amending the current legal definition of marriage as “the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life”(Marriage Act 1961)

What appears to be a minor grammatical change is in fact a catastrophic change by removing the historic words “man and a woman” and replacing it with the neuter gender “two people” (Subsection 46(1)).

The Bill would also legalise same-sex homosexual ‘marriage’ in our Australian Navy, Army and Airforce (Subsection 72(2)).

It would also force the Australian States Registers of Marriage to re-cognise ‘marriage’ by same-sex homosexual men, which were solemnised in a foreign country (Section 88(EA)). This Bill would also change the legal rights of parents by removing the terms “husband and wife” and replacing them with “two people” (Part 111 of the Schedule (Item 1.)).

As Australia is a Christian nation by culture and convention, our marriage laws are based on the Christian tradition, which is also followed by all other major religions; That is, marriage can only be legal between a male and female, between a man and woman. This Christian belief of marriage is also supported by at least 80% of our population, especially the 64% who claim to be Christian at the national Australian Census.

This tradition is recorded in the earliest human historical record in the Old Testament which is followed by the Jewish Faith and the Christian Faith, which states in Genesis chapter 2:24 these words, “For this reason a man (male) will leave his father (male) and mother (female) and be united to his wife (female) and the two will become one flesh”. So as not to have us in any doubt about the definition of marriage, our Lord Jesus Christ repeated these words in the Gospels, Matthew 19:4-6 “Have you not read that in the beginning the Creator made them male and female. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one. Therefore, what God has joined together, let man not separate”.

Science clearly proves not just the biological differences between male and female but that they compliment one another and can become one flesh, as married couples recognise as their love for one another grows.

It is biologically impossible for two men to become one flesh, nor can they conceive human life for the procreation and continuation of the human race.

“Marriage” is defined as follows”:

1. The legal union of a man with a woman for life; state or condition of being married; the legal relation of spouses to each other; wedlock.
2. The legal or religious ceremony that sanctions or formalises the decision of a man and a woman to live as husband and wife.

Any tampering with the definition of marriage, as proposed by some elements in our society, would tend to weaken this much-needed institution which is the necessary and imperative foundation to build strong, sound family units.

Always, the aim was kept in view by former compassionate legislators and very sensible politicians, to provide every child with the far preferable option of both a father and a mother wherever possible. The true identity formation of each child is relative to good mentoring of both maleness and femaleness, above all by loving parents of both genders in a legal marriage relationship.

If we do not promote a suitable ceremony of commitment for those who want to live together, what are we 'modelling' before youngsters and our teens as to the nature of true commitment? Failures there are too many, regrettably, but that should be incentive for any government to promote greater awareness of sounder relationships and marriage commitment by heavily subsidizing very low-cost education of its citizens. Indirectly, marriage and family breakdown comes at great cost to the community and ultimately to the government, so a wise parliament will institute all the provisions possible to undergird all human relationships.

Unlike much of current sex education courses in the West, including Australia, which are proving to produce the opposite of intended outcomes with increased pregnancies (with its interruptions to education and employment), abortions, homosexuality, indiscipline, and broken relationships, let wise politicians include good moral guidelines, which appear to be noticeably absent. Let's do all we can to assist the up-building of our Nation's moral fibre, the key to any nation's success.

Arnold Joseph Toynbee, the English historian in his study of civilizations in 6 volumes adequately proved that the collapse of the large majority of these was by national inner moral failure "which crept up silently while none were aware", rather than by invasion or war from the outside. Let it not be said of us Australians, "The only thing we learn from history is that we don't learn from history!" The big question then is, do our politicians have the moral integrity to make the hard and right decisions, or cave in to minority pressure groups who seek to destroy the good old ancient institution of proper marriage, and promote an unnatural rather than the natural order that has served the human race for thousands of years? With prudence, wisdom, understanding and sagacity the good of the Nation can be enhanced. We must remember that there, ultimately, will be no mercy for the legislators who detract from God's required righteous standards.

Health risks associated with homosexual sex are extremely high, even when condoms are used. Despite a major effort to promote the use of condoms, unprotected sex is extremely common amongst the homosexual community. On top of this, having an extremely high number of sexual partners is very common amongst homosexuals.

This sort of lifestyle is not compatible with marriage or the wellbeing of society; therefore homosexual marriages should not be encouraged or recognised in Australia. If homosexual marriages were allowed and legally recognised, then there will be a push to affirm (through marriage) child brides, incestuous partners, bigamous or polygamous partners. These are incompatible with marriage and would be disastrous to the welfare of Australian society.

Research has shown that when compared to heterosexual marriages, homosexual relationships have a higher rate of break-ups and violence, including sexual assault against children.

The homosexual lifestyle is not something to be encouraged, as a lot of research shows it leads to a much lower life expectancy, higher rates of psychological disorders, and other problems.

It is therefore in children's best interest that homosexual marriages not be recognised in Australia.

I would recommend to your Committee the following:

1. That the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009 be quashed and not passed into legislation.
2. Recommend that the Government of Australia not redefine "marriage" to incorporate same-sex homosexual or lesbian relationships so that as many children as possible will have present in the home, both a mother (female) and father (male).
3. Recommend to the Government that they make the arrangements to investigate and initiate all the ways that government can implement to improve the moral values of Australia.
4. Recommend to the Government that they bring in heavy censorship to reduce the production, supply, importation and availability of pornography because of its destructive contribution to: • disrespect for females and human relationships in general; • increasing violence and sexual abuse; • increased promiscuity, unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, all unnecessary abortions. • undermining of normal marriage relationships.
5. Recommend to the Government the introduction of subsidized education for all who want to avail themselves of such, to help our citizens build higher quality relationships, stronger morals and self-discipline, better marriages, greater parenting and home management skills.

Yours Sincerely

Lachlan Grierson