

Dear Senators,

It is vitally important that the Australian Government maintains the definition of marriage as the lifelong exclusive relationship between a man and a woman. So much social science research has shown that children raised by their biological mother and father have lower rates of incarceration and suicide (among other things) than those who are not, as well enjoying much higher levels of educational and career success. These findings hold across income levels and cultural backgrounds. If Parliament changes the legal definition of marriage many children will be disadvantaged in very serious ways. This alone needs to be seriously considered and I think this large body of research must be explored in your investigation.

While the homosexual community is probably less than 2 per cent of Australia's population, it appears that a much lower number within this community (perhaps a minority, although from the studies I have read I can't be conclusive) conducts relationships that in any way look like what most Australians would consider a marriage (lifelong exclusive commitment.) Please look into these statistics as part of your investigation. Any change to marriage will fundamentally change all of Australian society for generations to come (and not just the lives of some homosexuals.) All externalities and unintended consequences must be explored and considered.

Best wishes for this very important discussion. Please be open to the evidence.