

23 August 2009

Members of Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs  
**Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009.**

Dear Members

I make the following submission for your consideration in relation to the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009.

I am strongly opposed to the Bill and believe that marriage is a life long union between a man and a woman. I have been married for almost 30 years and believe that my commitment to my marriage and my children, borne of that marriage, is an important contribution to Australia and the growth and development of our great country.

At a time when moral values are constantly under attack and marriage is seen as something of times passed, we need our leaders to step up to the line and stand by those virtues that have built our country. Marriage between man and woman, a life long commitment to each other and the family that they will bring into this world is not an outdated prejudicial institution that should be brushed aside. It is a foundation stone upon which this nation has been built.

Senator Hanson-Young's bill purports to recognize freedom of sexuality, celebrate diversity and bring about equality by removing the discrimination of the Marriage Act 1961. Australia presently celebrates a complete freedom in sexuality, we rejoice in our diversity but regretfully we do not enjoy equality of all persons within our Country. Equality does not require that everything is the same, it requires fair treatment and a balancing of the needs of all persons. Equality does not mean that a very small minority may dictate to the majority the way in which they must live their life. Through political astuteness and shrewdness vocal minorities are changing the way in which the majority must live. This Bill represents another attempt to impose the prejudicial desires of a few on the majority, disguised under the veneer of bringing about equality.

The homosexual and lesbian communities within Australia now enjoy equal standing. A homosexual and lesbian couple may register their relationship and be treated equally for taxation and benefit guidelines with heterosexual de-facto

or married couples. There is no discrimination in Australia against members of the homosexual and lesbian community. This Bill however does seek to discriminate against those men and women who honor and choose to enter the institution of marriage by seeking to remove the distinctiveness of this union to that between solely a man and a woman.

I would also bring to your attention, a fact of which I am sure you are aware, that many religions cherish the union of marriage and believe it to be a covenant between man and woman ordained and blessed by God. Any amendment to the Marriage Act to remove the identification of this union as one solely between a man and a woman, would be an outright and blatant attack on a fundamental tenet of their faith and a rejection of their beliefs. It would in my view be therefore an abominable act and clearly discriminatory on the part of any leader who may endorse such an action.

Marriage does not discriminate on the basis of sexual choice, it merely defines a centuries old tradition of a man and a woman committing their lives to each other. If anyone believes that there is a need to refine marriage so as to remove the reference to man and woman because it is discriminatory, then let us not stop there. Let us also remove all references in our society to the terms 'man' and 'woman' because clearly they do define a person's nature. Clearly such a notion is foolish as is also the notion of redefining marriage.

The Marriage Amendment Bill 2009 should not be supported. I urge that marriage continue to be defined as one only between a man and a woman and that same-sex 'marriages' performed overseas not be recognised in Australia.

Yours sincerely,