

24th August 2009

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Re: Inquiry into the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009

Esteemed members of the Senate,

As a private citizen, husband and father, I respectfully entrust my submission to you.

I relation to Schedule 1 of the Explanatory Memorandum for the proposed Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009, please consider the following:

Item 1.

I am strongly opposed to the amendment of the definition of marriage.

My wife and I believe that marriage should only be between a man and woman. Marriage is the most important building block in the fabric of our society. One of its primary roles is that of the establishment of a family, whereby a man and a woman come together to have children and to bring them up in the knowledge of our values and culture. In this sense, marriage is unique; it encompasses the legacy and wisdom of thousands of years of human society, and needs to be protected for the greater good. Removing the current definition will further erode our society's recognition of the roles that a father and a mother play as husband and wife within the marriage, by reducing it to a mere 'contractual' arrangement between agreed parties.

We are aggrieved that our elected representatives see it within their power to change this without a clear mandate from the electorate at large.

Item 2.

I am strongly opposed to this amendment.

Item 3.

I am strongly opposed to this amendment. It is my expressed desire that the words 'man and woman' be kept within the existing Marriage Act.

Item 4.

I am strongly opposed to this amendment.

Item 5.

I am strongly opposed to this amendment. If the Marriage Act has recognised our society's view on marriage being between a man and a woman, this should be respected, no matter what other people in other countries do. We need to respect who we are, which is what makes us what we are: Australians.

Item 6.

For the reasons explained above, I am strongly opposed to this amendment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information regarding my submission to this enquiry.

Yours sincerely,

Lucas R Pardo