

To Whom It May Concern/ Committee Secretary Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee

I am writing in complaint of Senator Hanson-Young's bill on Marriage Equality. Her bill would change marriage so that any two people, regardless of gender, could 'marry'. Same sex marriage will undermine marriage because it equates any loving relationship between any two consenting adults as marriage.

The stated aims of Senator Hanson-Young's bill are to recognise 'freedom of sexuality' and to celebrate 'diversity'. While these may be the values of a gay mardi gras, they are not the values of marriage. This kind of thinking is selfish adult lust that does not care about others, (lust does not love), especially children who are vulnerable on just about every level and who are not in a place to protect themselves. With bills such as this which supposedly bring 'freedom of sexuality' - there is **NO regard for the impact on children**.

The reality is there is enough evidence now in the 21st Century regarding the impact that a father and mother (or lack thereof) have on their children and the healthy natural relating and establishment of identity and development that brings. Why is this not highlighted and promoted as fact? Policy and money and time should be given to sustain and educate and uphold men and women in their marriages.

Marriage is about **love, commitment, fidelity**, and the **stable nurturing of children** where they are the product of marriage. These qualities are what make marriage the building block of society.

I will continue to back The *Marriage Act of 2004* and remain committed to marriage remaining the union of a man and a woman.