

24th August, 2009

To Whom it May Concern,

I recently heard about the upcoming Marriage Equality Amendment Bill No. 2009 which seeks to omit "a husband and wife" from the definition and substitute the following:

"Marriage means the union of two people, regardless of their sex, sexuality or gender identity, voluntarily entered into for life".

I am strongly opposed to this on both a personal and religious ground. A marriage means a legal connection as well as a spiritual connection between a man and a woman. It has meant this for thousands of years. It needs to remain this way in Australia because our heritage is a Christian one where marriage is ONLY a man and a woman. Why should we give up our heritage for a small minority, just because the majority can't be bothered to have a say or don't want to get involved.

I want Overseas same-sex marriages also not to be recognised in Australia

The following notes are taken from the 'Marriage Q and A' link on **The Australian Family Association** website <http://www.family.org.au>

Marriage refers to the unique relationship between a man a woman - a relationship to create the best possible environment to progenerate and raise children. Marriage is the first step in the establishment of the genetic bonds of family.

By encouraging and supporting marriage, society gets the benefit of strong families and communities.

Also the principle of 'equality' is a devious deception used by the corrupt and power hungry to win over gullible and misinformed people to again power, control and influence. This is a proven method used by Communist and other despots to counter their opposition and establish their oppressive regimes.

How can we dictate to a child that they have to miss out on having a father and mother, that one or the other is not necessary and that they can be replaced. Well, they can't, each has his/her own role in our development and life choices that we make as we grow up. They are both equally important, just ask a single parent family how tough it is not to be able to fill the void left by the other sex in their childs' life.

Please do not support this bill, keep Australia strong and keep marriages only for male and female couples not same sex couples.

Yours in hope,

Samantha Brown