

Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs CommitteeParliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

25th August 2009

To the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

RE: Marriage Equality

It has come to my attention that a small minority in our country are seeking to change the meaning of the first and most sacred institutions known to man, marriage.

Marriage is a unified institution. Marriage means a committed, legally sanctioned relationship between a man and a woman. That's what it means in our secular law and has for all of human existence. I believe that we cannot have that marriage coexisting institutionally with something else called 'same-gender' marriage. It simply is a definitional impossibility. To change the definition is to redefine the institution to being one of genderless marriage.

Until quite recently, in a limited number of countries, there has been no such thing as a marriage between persons of the same gender. Suddenly we are faced with the claim that thousands of years of human experience should be set aside because we should not discriminate in relation to the institution of marriage. When that claim is made, the burden of proving that this step will not undo the wisdom and stability of millennia of experience lies on those who would make the change. Yet the question is asked and the matter is put forward as if those who believe in marriage between a man and a woman have the burden of proving that it should not be extended to some other set of conditions. So I asked my 6 & 8 year old daughters, What is marriage? To which they replied "You need a girl and boy to get married... or else you can't make children".

I oppose the Marriage Equality Bill 2009 before the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee because it would completely change the meaning marriage has had throughout history. Marriage is vital for creating families and raising children who need both a mother and a father.

Sincerely

Kenneth M Comber JP(Qualified)