

25 August 2009

Committee Secretary Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee PO Box 6100 Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600 Australia

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in regard to the Inquiry into the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009 currently before parliament. I am concerned that an amendment to the Marriage Act based on sexuality and gender identity, allowing marriage regardless of sex, sexuality and gender equality will have a detrimental effect on society as a whole.

As I see it, marriage is a life-long commitment between a man and women to love, nurture on one another and provide a stable environment for the up-bringing of children. As a secondary high school teacher in the public system I am all too aware of the effect that a lack of society standards is having on the up-coming generation. Children require guidelines and boundaries, a lack of these produces confusion and kayos. Our current generation of teens believe that anything goes, they are unmotivated, lack discipline and respect, and have very few role models with which they identify in the media or sporting world that portray good upright standards. The family model at home is collapsing under the monetary pressure of raising a family and teens are left to fend for themselves more often than not. How would taking away the foundation of marriage between a man and a woman – a mum and a dad benefit the up-coming generations? Men and women are made differently; typically women have a more nurturing instinct, while men are typically the providers and protectors of the family. When you take these two integral beings away from the up-bringing of a child it leaves an imbalance. When the child is sick or needs the nurturing of a mother in a typical marital setting it is there - provided by the women. When a child needs protection or the strength of a father in the typical marital setting it is there – the child gets to benefit from the uniqueness of each sex. The child is able to understand and respect the differences in each sex and does not have a lop-sided view on society.

Offering marriage as a right to same-sex couples does not consider the implications of the generations to come. It is a narrow-minded and selfish view point. People were made differently for a reason, we need to accept those differences between the sexes and what they offer to the family unit - rather than destroy the very foundation of society. I see the faces of the youth today, they are lost, they are guided by fewer and fewer boundaries.

Do not take the sanctity of marriage away from them as well.

Yours sincerely,