

Submission on the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009

I would like submit my opinion on the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009, stating that I am against changes proposed to the Marriage Act 1961.

In particular I am concerned that the amendment introduces drastic changes to way marriage is perceived and reduces the value of the institute of marriage in our society. Despite high figures of divorce rates I believe that marriage is understood by most to be something that is not voluntarily entered into lightly.

Referring to the existing definition of marriage stated in the Marriage Act 1961, I believe that marriage IS the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life. Taking away 'to the exclusion of all others' takes away what I think we know as a society to be particularly crucial factor of an enjoyable and lasting marriage.

I think the definition of 'the union of a man and woman' should be held rather than replaced by 'the union of two people'.

The male/female unit is one that is able to naturally and collectively lead to procreation, unlike that of a same-sex couple. The lifelong commitment of a man and a woman in marriage provides an environment which can be understanding and nurturing to a child of either sex that is produced.

A family unit should be able to provide an environment where a child can perceive and comfortably learn from parents the appropriate interaction and behaviour of their sex without being concerned in any way that it may not be the natural form.

The relational patterns and role models provided for children by a heterosexual couple are much different to that displayed by a homosexual couple. Since exposure to these behaviours is so formative in the development of children, should not we be concerned with the examples that are being approved to take charge of bringing up children - those in a 'married relationship'?

Contrary to being discriminatory against or excluding same-sex orientated people from the perceived rights or benefits of marriage I believe that the current state of the Marriage Act rather upholds the value of a heterosexual family unit in our society.

Prior lifelong commitment as a unit to each other enables a male and female in a marriage relationship with the security and legal recognition to naturally have, and bring up, children in a way recognised in the structure of our society and the world's community. Studies on communities have found family units, rather than singles or couple units, have greater involvement in local community benefiting pursuits; competitive and social sports groups, school involvement and the like. Family units should be promoted in our society for the sustenance and benefit of their local communities and collectively our community as a whole.

In a society where the value of sex has been much degraded to become a mere form of pleasure and where gender roles are blurred to the point of causing confusion I think it is important that we uphold the value of heterosexual family units by maintaining the value and meaning of the institute of marriage as currently defined in the Marriage Act 1961.

Thank you for considering this submission,
Yours sincerely,
Alicia