

To the members of the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee,

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009.

Senator Hanson-Young states that the aims of the bill are to recognise 'freedom of sexuality' and to celebrate 'diversity'. But marriage isn't primarily about sexuality, and has very little to do with diversity. It is far more than just a loving relationship between 'two consenting adults'.

Marriage is about love, fidelity, and commitment. It is not a right to attain, but rather involves giving up rights. It is about choosing to restrict some personal freedoms (especially in the area of sexuality) in favour of the spouse and the relationship. It is a solemn and binding lifelong vow, 'for better or worse, in good times and bad.'

Marriage has always been between a man and a woman. Homosexual relationships are not marriage, they are something else. And changing legislation so that these relationships can be called 'marriage', does not make them the same as marriage. If the aim is to celebrate diversity, why take diverse relationships and try to call them the same thing?

Marriage is such an important social institution that needs to be protected and promoted, not watered down and modified so that it becomes synonymous for 'any loving relationship between two consenting adults'.

I believe that this bill would not really change anything for those in homosexual relationships (whose 'freedom of sexuality' is already recognised and not restricted in any way) but if introduced would weaken marriage and families, and society will be poorer for it.

Thankyou for taking the time to carefully consider this issue.

Sincerely,
Melissa Raymond