

Submission for Enquiry into Marriage Equality

I strongly support the current status of marriage as being limited to one man and one woman. It seems blatantly obvious to me that physically, male and female are complementary and they alone are designed to produce children. Similarly, I believe they are emotionally complementary.

Children deserve to be at least given the chance of having a father and a mother and the benefits of both male and female nurture. A male cannot be a female role model nor can a female be a role model for a male. A large amount of research shows that children do best when raised in a home with both a mother and a father.¹ Obviously, we cannot guarantee that death or divorce won't interfere with this ideal but we can ensure that we don't interfere with it by radically changing marriage.

I think it is misguided to experiment with human lives. I well remember when we were constantly told that marijuana was harmless and people were encouraged to use this harmless drug. I was amazed because my observation told a different story. Of course we now know the real story. Let us not make the same mistake on this issue. Let us rather stick with human history and experience in every culture and say that marriage is for a man and a woman for the sake of the children.

What of same sex relationships? They should have equal rights. However I do not believe that they constitute a marriage.

There will be pressure to change the way we view marriage. There will come pressure to include numbers of men or women as part of a valid marriage. I urge you to resist and to take a long term view for the health of our society and the good of its children.

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¹ Eg Sarantokos, S, "Children in three contexts", *Children Australia*, 21(3), 1996