

## **Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009 – Submission**

In the establishment of the Marriage Act 1961, the authors of this Bill realised that marriage is meant to be an exclusive relationship between a man and a woman. This sanctioned relationship realised the ideal of the natural family which was the basis to bring forth children in a caring and balanced loving atmosphere. The unique nature of a man and a woman bound in an exclusive conjugal relationship provides the natural balance of different loves necessary in the rearing of children. As the children are, in most cases, a unique blend of the attributes of the father and the mother, a special bond is formed which is so much deeper than the recognition of being just “a chip of the old block”. The child forms an identity and role model through the parent of the same gender and, of equal importance, can understand and respect the virtues of the opposite gender through the other parent.

On a deeper level, every human being child has an emotional need that is best satisfied by having a natural father and a natural mother in a loving and committed relationship. That relationship is best protected through marriage. Therefore marriage is an exclusive arrangement between a man and a woman. To include same sex friendships as legal marriage is to not recognise the true meaning of marriage. The evidence concerning same sex relationships suggest that multiple partners and a constant variety of sexual experience are the norm and commitment and loyalty to just one person are not to be expected.

Laws should be made that are for the good of the people. Also, the law should have universal benefits for the nation, such as we presently enjoy with marriage as it stands today. If everyone decided that they would become a married person, there would not be a negative impact on the society, but on the contrary, would probably increase our replacement rate to a safer level. If we apply the same principle to same-sex marriage, would it be a benefit to the nation if many couples were encouraged to adopt same-sex relationships as the norm with all the benefits currently reserved for legally married or defacto couples? The outcomes could only be negative for the growth of the nation and would also create a generation of children who would suffer gender confusion.

As the Census reveals that homosexual persons only represent less than 2% of the population, there is no mandate to repair or alter the Act of Marriage which is not broken, but working quite well, despite many negative pressures against it. Marriage as we know it should be preserved in its present form without change. If this small percentage of the population want to have some legal recognition for their mateship as a couple, it could be suggested that the government create a register of homosexual friendships that have limited legal recognition and no equality with married couples.

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