

29th July 2009

To the Committee Secretary Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs

Re: "Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009"

It has come to my attention that if the amendment is made to the Marriage Act of 2004, this will consequently legalise same-sex marriage.

Labor has consistently stated it will not allow same-sex 'marriage', however Labor is actively promoting State-based legal recognition through 'Relationship Registers' which is undermining the very act of marriage between a man and a woman.

As far as I have understood, the Marriage Act of 2004, under the Howard Government, was instituted by the people's choice therefore why is this amendment even necessary. Clearly the majority of Australians had opted for traditional family values, namely marriage between a man and a woman and so this choice should be respected.

Just because a minority group wishes to enforce their values on the majority, does not indicate this particular option is welcomed by the majority or is a healthy option for this nation. On the contrary, history has often depicted the demise of a nation of communities of people once their moral values began to decline.

May I respectfully encourage the Labor government to consider carefully their decision regarding undermining the Marriage Act of 2004 very carefully. It is a crucial decision and one not to be taken lightly.

It has not been luck that has caused this nation to prosper so abundantly compared to many other nations. Australia's past governmental leaders have respected good moral and ethical judgements and this is what has made this nation what it is today. To digress from this, spells disaster.

In conclusion, I along with many others choose traditional marriage. Although we should care and consider the needs of others outside heterosexual marriage, it does not represent a healthy way of life for either the individuals concerned, neither the children involved. Much research has been done to clarify the fact that marriage between a man and a woman is by far the most conducive to raising well balanced children. Enough material to support this view is already available.

Yours sincerely,

Orysia Teresa Ellis