

Re: Amendment to Marriage Act

**Esteemed Members,**

Thank you for the opportunity of making a submission regarding the proposed Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009, which seeks to remove all discrimination from the Marriage Act 1961 on the basis of sexuality and gender identity and to permit marriage regardless of sex, sexuality and 'gender' identity.

I submit to you that Australia would do well to reject this proposed amendment for the following reasons.

- 1) The present the Marriage Act 1961 does not discriminate on the basis of sexuality and gender identity. It also permits marriage regardless of sex. Any man or woman of age in Australia is allowed to make use of the institution of marriage. Marriage is a covenant between two people based on the biological distinction male and female. That some Australians do not wish to make use of this institution for reasons of sex, sexuality and 'gender' identity is their constitutional right.
- 2) The amendment calls in effect for a redefinition of marriage rather than an amendment to the Bill. If some segments of society crave for more public recognition of their alternative relationships this is not the way to do it. We might call those 'marriage' with a majority vote, but when all is said and done such relationships will still remain little more than the emperor's clothes. It will be obvious for all brave enough to see that the biological make-up of marriage is simply not present in homosexual relationships.
- 3) In terms of social stability and raising the next generation of Australians, this amendment is a very bad move indeed. Our primary and high schools struggle enough with a lack of biological role models at home because of single parent situations. The evidence is overwhelming that the development of children and their ability to relate positively to the wider world is even less encouraged by these alternative lifestyles. Despite the worrisome divorce rate in general, it is also abundantly clear from scholarly research and medical data that homosexual relationships are hugely unstable compared with de facto relationships between men and women. I encourage your committee to make the Sydney / NSW data available to the general public. In terms of faithfulness, stability and relative health care expenses for this segment of society, the statistics seem rather appalling when compared to the general population.

As with smoking (which was politically correct not that long ago), we should be willing to face the biological facts and the social & medical statistics. And do what is good for Australia longterm.

Thank you for taking this submission into consideration.

Faithfully Yours,

Prof Dr Benno Zuiddam.