## **Marriage Act Submission**

20/08/09

Marriage is a legal commitment and union between a man and a woman to become husband and wife, to remain faithful to each other until death parts them. This is what marriage has always meant; it is the fundamental definition. If two people in a homosexual relationship wish to commit themselves to each other and remain faithful to each other until death parts them, they have every right to. But they cannot refer to this as marriage, for by the definition, it is not. There is no reason why we should change the meaning of the word. They therefore must choose a different term to describe their relationship. Marriage has a value that is beyond what is tangible to the law and every effort must be made to protect it. Within marriage, stability and support strengthen whole families and children have the opportunity to grow up in a secure environment under the guidance of both a father and a mother. No one could argue that both parents serve the same role or hold the same place in a child's heart, and to take this relational structure away from a child is an abuse of their fundamental human rights. Australia is a strong nation, but to remain strong, it needs to stand by its heritage and defend the building blocks of what has made society strong. Taking away a foundational block such as marriage would only serve to see society crumble.

## **Catherine Skinner**