

Submission by:
Helen Louden

To: Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee
legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Members,

Re Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009

It is extremely important to me that the institution of marriage between a man and a woman is protected.

In 2004, the government confirmed that marriage would remain defined as between a man and a woman by inserting “between a man and a woman into the *Marriage Act*. The Rudd government made an election commitment that marriage would be protected as being between a man and a woman only.

Marriage is an important institution because of the advantages to the couple, the children and the community that life long commitment brings.

Marriage between a man and a woman has been the historical basis for society before history was recorded. It mirrors the teaching of every major religion and almost every culture, and has been supported by thousands of years of collective wisdom. Marriages existed long before the Constitution and the state acknowledged or regulated them.

Marriage is the committed relationship between a man and a woman. To maintain this traditional understanding of marriage is an acknowledgement of a most valuable and important social act. Marriage involves vows of a lifetime exclusive commitment to sexual faithfulness. The majority of homosexuals, regardless of health, vitality and economic well-being, rejects such a commitment.

It is well known that same-sex relationships are not only unstable, but also very unhealthy. Most homosexuals admit that their understanding of marriage differs from the normal heterosexual marriage, with the willingness to allow extra-marital sexual outlets. Allowing homosexual relationships to be considered as marriage would seriously undermine marriage, as we know it.

Benefits to society of traditional marriage and family

- a. It provides a stable basis for family – a mum and dad, based on the complementary nature of men and women – and thus for society.
- b. It provides definition of roles – income earning, decision making, child care
- c. Responsibility – for other than yourself, for care of children from birth to

adulthood

- d. Financial base - the family unit provides incentive to build an economic base, home ownership, and to take economic responsibility
- e. Support – emotional safety, cross generational emotional support, support in sickness, encouragement
- f. Relationship – cross gender and cross generational bonding and connectedness
- g. Reproduction - a socially recognised means by which children are brought into the world and cared for
- h. Social and mental health – a secure caring relationship between a man and a woman produces happy well-adjusted children and socially and mentally healthy adults who are able to contribute to society
- i. Role models – male and female roles are demonstrated by example to children, as are the benefits of marriage and stable families
- j. Community involvement – the responsibility of marriage and rearing children engages families in the wider community as involvement in schools and sports increase.

Please reject Senator Sarah Hanson-Young’s “Marriage Equality” Bill.

Yours sincerely

Helen Loudon