

Patrick O'Neill

20th August 2009

TO the Senate Committee
Legal and Constitutional Affairs
Marriage Equality

To whom it may concern

Marriage is not about political equality. It is about commitment, loyalty, fidelity and children. Biologically and historically these are the reasons for marriage.

A stable marriage producing happy children provides a stability for Australia – long term.

Same sex Unions are about the individual not Australia.

I am not against same sex unions – just don't destroy an institutional name to suit a minorities desire to be more acceptable. Same sex unions given the title of 'marriage' will undermine marriage because it equates any loving relationship between any two consenting adults as marriage. Children are an afterthought and are not the primary reason for a same sex union.

Marriage is about love, commitment, fidelity, and the stable nurturing of children where they are the product of marriage. These qualities are what make marriage the building block of society. In 2004 it was the commitment of thousands of married persons who wrote submissions and letters in record numbers that saw both major parties agree to insert the definition of marriage as the union of a man and a woman into the Marriage Act.

As a Foster parent to adolescent children, I have seen the need for children to have a stable environment to live their life through. This remains even after 40 years. I have seen marriages with no children end easily whereas the opposite is catastrophically true.

Same sex Unions will undermine marriage even more because the relationship are so short lasting. Children again are a political expediency for a minoritys desire.

What are the statistics of same sex relationships lasting 40 years – there are none because the truth will stop this bill.

Yours Faithfully

Patrick A. O'Neill