

I wish to oppose any amendments to the Marriage Act that would allow same sex couples to either marry or enter into some other form of legally recognised arrangement that may effectively equate to marriage.

The traditional nuclear family, which has been a successful entity for centuries, has always been between a man and a woman. This is a universal truth and is in keeping with the laws of nature.

Numerous scientific studies have confirmed the traditional family as being the most appropriate relationship to raise children. As society has tended to veer away from this model children have suffered mentally and physically. The onset of depression is now common amongst teenagers and youth suicide is at alarming levels.

Any consideration to amend the Marriage Act should first examine the potential impact on children from multiple perspectives including the variation from traditional marriage (less than 3% of the Australian population in the last Sex Life survey identified themselves as homosexual). This article [Comparing the lifestyles of homosexual couples to married couples](#) contains findings from surveys conducted all over the world on numerous aspects of homosexual relationships.

With demographers having already identified that Australia's birth rate won't sustain our population, why is the government even considering institutionalising a type of relationship that is not only contrary to the laws of nature, and therefore cannot procreate without intervention (often expensive IVF), but is destructive the very future of Australia's survival - our children?

Regardless of contemporary thinking and values, ultimately the strength of a family depends on the quality of the relationship between a mother and father. Therefore, I believe the traditional marriage relationship should be encouraged, strengthened, valued and supported by society and individuals in every possible way. As this relationship is fundamental to the success of a family and subsequently society.

Michael C. Foulds