

20<sup>TH</sup> August, 2009

Dear Committee Members,

I respectfully write to express my belief that marriage, or any relationship endorsed by the Australian Government through law or practice, should be between a male and a female.

As a school principal I find our young people facing enough challenges in life with identity, sexuality and security. To acknowledge and/or legitimize same-sex relationships will cause a further destabilizing of the foundations upon which our children's understandings have been built. It is a furphy to say that homosexuality is just a variation of acceptable behaviours. Medical and sociological evidence does not support this belief. To foist it upon our young people as a legitimate option is scurrilous. Yes, it is natural to have some experimentation but that should only be to cement in one's mind what is right, suitable, appropriate and natural. The increasing need for chaplaincy services, psychological support and other mental health treatment is, in part, due to the uncertainty in a young person's mind. It is not beneficial to say, "Do whatever you like-it is your life, you choose how to live it." Such thinking is self-centred, fraught with dangers and not conducive to a supportive, harmonious community.

The basic anatomical and biological features of males and females are such that the two genders are complementary and productive. Two males together or two females together do not procreate and such pairings are rarely accepted in the animal world. Why should the government endorse variation from the the design originally intended?

To have government acknowledge same-sex relationships opens the door to a pandora's box. Such ill-fated legitimacy would force fostering and adoption arrangements to be inclusive. A child in an already distressed and confused state could be placed with a homosexual "couple". The lack of normality and balanced role models would just add to confusion of such a child-both at the time and in their probing adolescent years. Such authentication by the government could damage our meager health budget through forcing access to IVF and similar treatments for homosexual. Many people in a male/female couple with fertility problems are severely restricted in access to such treatments because of the costs and access already. Adding unnecessarily to this by allowing "gay" couples will further diminish this service.

Please, reject this bill as out of hand.

Yours truly,

Tim Young