

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

RE: Inquiry into the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009

I understand that the Greens are submitting a private Senator's Bill, through Senator Sarah Hanson-Young's called the 'Marriage Equality' bill on **Friday, 28 August 2009**.

Her bill would change the definition of marriage from what it is currently "the union of a man and a woman" to a definition that would imply that any two people, regardless of gender, could be legally identified as 'married' under the law.

I do not agree with this proposed amendment. Same sex marriage will undermine marriage because it equates any loving relationship between any two consenting adults as marriage.

Marriage is about love, commitment, fidelity, and the stable nurturing of children where they are the product of a marriage between the union of a man and a woman. These qualities are what our current society has been built upon.

Our society needs strong role models and firm leadership. Making this amendment to the definition of marriage has the potential to create confusion and emotional instability for the next generation as they battle to understand who or what their mother, mother's partner, and/or father and father's partner is. Please don't put the family unit through this additional strain. Keep it simple and leave the current marriage definition as it is.

Yours sincerely