

## **Objection to the proposed 'Marriage Equality' Bill**

I wish to object in the strongest possible terms to Senator Sarah Hanson-Young's so-called 'Marriage Equality' bill.

If passed, this bill would change marriage so that any two people, regardless of gender, could 'marry'.

Marriage between a man and a woman is the basic building block of our society. Marriage is about love, commitment, fidelity, and the stable nurturing of children where they are the product of marriage. The stated aims of Senator Hanson-Young's bill are to recognize 'freedom of sexuality' and to celebrate 'diversity'. While these may be the values of a gay madi gras, they are not the values of marriage.

Same sex marriage will undermine 'real' marriage because it equates to any loving relationship between any two consenting adults as marriage. Defining marriage in this way will surely open the door to other minority pressure groups for acceptance of their definition of marriage. Such practices as polygamy, under age marriage, marriage between close blood relatives, would all too soon become the norm. This is not the type of society we want or need in Australia

I urge the committee the committee to reject this bill to preserve marriage so that the human rights of our children to be given every possible opportunity to have a mother and a father are not trampled.

Thank you

Bruce Wilkinson