

Submission to the Senate Inquiry into the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009

One of the great flaws in our democratic system of government is that it allows the majority or a vocal minority to dictate laws that disadvantage the rights of a minority even when the actions or preferences of the minority has no effect upon the majority.

Such is the case with same sex marriage.

In 2004, an inquiry into the Howard Government's ban on same-sex marriage received more submissions than any other Senate inquiry in history; 13,000 against same-sex marriage and 3000 in favour. It is hard to conclude from this other than the fact that minority christian fundamentalist groups deliberately set out to swamp the contrary submissions to the inquiry. In doing so they have shown a very unchristian intolerance and disregard for the rights of those who belong to another minority group, a minority whose desire for same sex marriage can have no deleterious effect upon the religious apart from perhaps offending their sensibility. The solution for the religious right is "If you don't like same sex marriage, don't have one."

A substantial minority of the Australian community have a biologically based and hence natural preference for a long term relationship with a partner of the same sex. This minority group wishes to feel included in the institution of marriage. It is wrong that we continue to exile this group from mainstream society.

Same sex marriage should be an automatic right which should not be denied because of the irrational sensibilities of a minority group who derive their morality from a bronze age mythology.

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