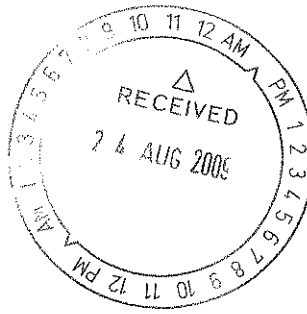


EXAMPLE SUBMISSION:

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



Thursday, 30 July 2009

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in response to the Senate Committee's call for submissions relating to the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009. As a citizen of this nation I call on the Australian Government to oppose the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009 and maintain the current definition of marriage in Australia as being "the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life."

Family and societal research shows the most stable upbringing for a child is in a family consisting of a married (male) father and (female) mother, and children. Although the realities of life do not allow this to be the case for many in our society I believe it is incumbent upon us a society to uphold the best ideals in our laws so our children can be afforded the best opportunities in life. Legalisation of homosexual marriage would open the door for many children to be deprived of an opportunity to receive a balanced upbringing in the home of a male and female parent. In the best interests of our children I call on the Australian Parliament to oppose the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009.

Your's Sincerely,

YOUR NAME

Mobile/Phone:

Address:

E-mail:

Marriage is best for society

- Heterosexual married relationships still provide the best foundation and environment in which to raise children and promote a healthy society.
- Heterosexual, committed, marriage relationships are healthy for the individuals, for children and for society.
- Even today, less than 1.5% of all heterosexual marriage relationships break down in Australia each year.
- No previous society in the history of mankind has ever normalised homosexual relationships.

The science has not changed:

- There is NO evidence, scientific or social, that homosexuality is genetic, innate, or unchangeable.
- La Trobe university 'Sex in Australia' survey states that just 1.2% of adult Australians identify as homosexual. Large surveys in many Western countries support this data.
- Australians have left homosexuality and now lead happy heterosexual lives.

There is plenty of evidence that homosexual relationships are not biologically or anatomically natural:

- Two men or two women cannot have a natural sexual relationship.
- Men cannot be mothers, and women cannot be fathers, and children need one of each.

There is plenty of evidence that homosexual relationships are not healthy for the individual, for children or for society:

- Rates of syphilis, gonorrhoea and Chlamydia are much higher among homosexuals than in the general community.
- Around 80% of all HIV/AIDS in Australia is associated with homosexual sex.
- Homosexual relationships are rarely monogamous and many are promiscuous and short term.
- HPV is extremely prevalent in the homosexual community.

FINALLY, if we normalise and legitimise same-sex relationships based simply on some notion of 'love' or 'human rights' then why not normalise and legitimise multi-partner relationships such as two, three, or even four women and a man - or three men and two women - if they 'love' each other. Are not their so-called 'human rights' also important?

Then we must ask ... just how far do we go?

Rights and benefits should not be given based on some simple definition of 'love' or on 'rights' but on what is good, healthy and beneficial for the whole community and for the most vulnerable – our children. **Anything less is irresponsible idealism.**

Taken from a Saltshakers email – see www.saltshakers.org.au