

Dear Sir/Madam

I do not believe that it is in the best interests of families and the community at large to water-down or modify the Marriage Act.

The Marriage Amendment Bill 2004, encompasses what we have always known: that marriage is "between one man and one woman, to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life".

I believe that:

- Marriage between a man and a woman support the family and is the foundation of society.
- Family-based traditional marriage is the best place for raising children.
- Opening marriage to other relationships devalues the social standing of marriage.

Also from a common sense and recent history:

- This was tried in California under proposition 8 <http://www.whatisprop8.com/> in the US and most people wanted Marriage to remain between a Man and a Woman
- The UK Couples who form a civil partnership have a new legal status, that of 'civil partner'. This would be a better model for Australia See UK facts below:  
[http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Governmentcitizensandrights/Yourrightsandresponsibilities/DG\\_10026937](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Governmentcitizensandrights/Yourrightsandresponsibilities/DG_10026937)
- Civil partners have equal treatment to married couples in a wide range of legal matters, including:
  - tax, including inheritance tax
  - employment benefits
  - most state and occupational pension benefits
  - income-related benefits, tax credits and child support
  - duty to provide reasonable maintenance for your civil partner and any children of the family
  - ability to apply for parental responsibility for your civil partner's child
  - inheritance of a tenancy agreement
  - recognition under intestacy rules
  - access to fatal accidents compensation
  - protection from domestic violence
  - recognition for immigration and nationality purposes

Heterosexual marriage is best left as it is and good arguments are found here <http://www.minthegap.com/2008/11/11/the-case-for-heterosexual-marriage/> and some here [http://www.christianexaminer.com/Articles/Articles%20Sep08/Art\\_Sep08\\_14.html](http://www.christianexaminer.com/Articles/Articles%20Sep08/Art_Sep08_14.html)

I ask that you REJECT this Bill.

Yours faithfully