

Dear Sir/Madam

I am 22 years old, an Australian citizen, and recently married. I know what marriage is, a precious lifelong union based on selfless love and respect between a man and a woman. No confusion, no stereotypes, just a perfect joining of persons. When we have a family I can say with confidence that my husband will make a wonderful father, being witness to the number of young men he puts his neck out for each day to guide with wisdom, and I hope I will be a good mother, already nurturing the skills of patience and confidence required to love a child with my actions as well as my heart.

I firmly believe the same could not be expected from a same sex marriage, when the separate skills and understanding of men and women are ignored and devalued, and feel allowance of same sex marriage would make a mockery and confusion of the institution in the eyes of society and its family units.

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.

I ask that you REJECT this Bill.

Yours faithfully,