

Dear Sir/Madam,

Regarding the Inquiry into the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009:

It is my conviction that the definition of marriage continue as defined, between one man and one woman, and that the Australian Government ought not recognise so called 'marriages' of same sex couples conducted overseas.

The traditional institution of a public, bound by oath, and exclusive relationship between a man and women, is long standing over many hundreds if not thousands of years. Of course marriage does not have a monopoly on whatever is subjectively declared a 'loving relationship'. But marriage does embody the best established tradition of expressing human sexuality. This reflects God's design, our Maker and Sustainer and Judge to whom every government office must give an account.

Marriage by definition seeks to discriminate as couples oath to 'forsake all others'. Marriage is by nature complementary, it is a shadow or symbol of the covenantal union between God and his people, or between Christ and the Church. As such marriage is grounded on the gender complementarity between a man and a woman. Marriage is an institution embracing both equality and difference. Marriage demands mutual service and promise-keeping security. It is a unique gift to society from God.

Abundant sociological studies have shown the material, emotional, and parenting benefits of upholding and renewing commitment to this vital Judeo-Christian tradition. For example, on 3rd August 2008, the Hon. Justine Elliot MP, Minister for Ageing, entitled 'Marriage Increases Life Expectancy'.

Redefining marriage to be more in submission with progressive and experimental worldviews will only generally erode the value of marriage, rather than share the blessings of it. The best interests of the people of Australia is that the Government help reinforce and renew the traditional view of marriage, against forces already at work to undermine traditional marital commitment.

Rev. Wayne Schuller