

Dear Committee Members,

We talk about equal treatment, yet with regard to marriage there seems to be a shift towards unfairly attacking this institution. Specifically, with regard to Superannuation, 'marriage' should not be lumped into a new category of 'couple relationships' for the sake of a few people feeling better about themselves.

Marriage is the cornerstone of our society and should be treated separately. All existing references to spouse, husband and wife should be retained in current & future superannuation laws.

As a real alternative, the legislation should refer to 'marriage and couple relationships', 'spouse and partner' as all inclusive equal treatment statements - meaning that same sex couples can benefit from one another's superannuation without giving up all reference to marriage in the law in the process.

Marriage is a uniquely committed relationship and has been shown in comparison to other relationships to offer a greater benefit to spouses and to children. Other forms of partnership are, by definition, less committed and therefore less stable.

As an elected representative of the people, please consider my view on this matter as a voter and uphold marriage. Marriage is under attack and you have the power to protect it - let history show my children that you did all you could to protect the best of all relationships.

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Regards,

Neil Freestone