

Dear Sir/Madam,

I was brought up by a mother and father that loved me and my sisters. I clearly remember needing my mother in some situations and my father in others.

Whilst my parents' care overlapped in many ways there were some things that only my mother could help with and some things that only my father could help with. I went to my mother when I had troubles with my friends and when I started going through puberty. I went to my father when I was scared of a teacher at school and needed his protection, or when I needed advice about boys. (These are very simplistic examples of my whole childhood.)

There were children in my school who were brought up by only one parent and I could see the longing in their eyes when I talked about my family life.

Having watched many episodes on television over the years of people needing to find their biological families I can see that there is a pull in people to belong to those they are bound to through genetics. Why this is, I don't know. But it is so obvious I can not understand why the government would want to introduce a law that would create even more problems in this area. In any case of homosexual couples that have children, there is always another unseen partner - either a male or a female, who has contributed to the conception of those children. These children will all grow up with a feeling of emptiness at being deprived of that mother or father. They will feel resentment toward their parents at having been deprived of this relationship.

Is it fair to give a child a deficiency in their upbringing for the sake of the adults' longings? Doesn't every child have a right to have a mother and a father in their life? Because of the breakdown of marriage this sadly often does not happen and our society is seeing the results of this. Our government should not contribute to this problem by weakening marriage further.

My boys recently attended VacsWim where another boy also swam, accompanied by his two female parents. I imagined what life must be like for this boy. He may have two caring parents at home. But what happens when at school his friends boast about what their dad does for a living, or when they say that their dad took them camping on the weekend? How embarrassing for this boy to not be able to join in on that conversation. Some may argue, "but his mother can take him camping!" Well tell that to this boy who feels less macho than his friends and who is likely teased by some of the more cruel children. I really felt for this boy who, honestly, constantly looked sad and embarrassed!

Of course there are many children who are from broken homes. But they usually will see both parents and have the benefits that go with having the influence and example of both a female and a male parent.

Recent research in the U.S that have examined the effects of children growing up fatherless has shown, contrary to some beliefs, that fathers are very necessary in the upbringing of children. Why would our government

ignore such research? Is it for popularity or votes? Shouldn't we be putting the needs of children before our own selfish wants?

Thankyou for taking the time to read my letter.

Yours sincerely,

Janine Homer