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Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

16th March 2012

RE: Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2010

Dear Sir/Madam,

In reference to the above bill under consideration I make the following submission for your consideration representing members of the Gold Coast community, the members of our Christian Church and members of the wider Australian community. For more than 15 years as a Marriage Celebrant I have performed and celebrated numerous ceremonies as couples, a man and woman, committed themselves to one another legally for life under the *Marriage Act*.

In considering Marriage equality and indeed marriage in our society in general a deeper and more thorough approach must be taken to something that is so important to the roots of the family and the moral make up of community.

- The *Marriage Act 1961* rather than containing discriminatory references is definitive.
- A persons choices, freedoms and so called "rights" should not be forced upon others, nor upon a document as important as the *Marriage Act*.
- A marriage is by definition in the Oxford dictionary "condition of man and woman legally united for the purpose of living together and usually procreating legal offspring; or ceremony establishing this condition". To define marriage as between something other than a man and a woman is to define another act; It is our belief that to do this would strike at the very roots of the fabric of our society and the heart and soul of our families that make up this society.
- What is the next step if a homosexual union was by law allowed to be called a marriage? It stands to reason there would be demanding equal rights in adopting children "we have a right to be a family" (What is the definition of Family?). Then the question that must and would need to be raised is "what about the rights of the child, the ones without the voice to be heard? Do not they have a right to a Father and a Mother and to a normal and balanced family unit?"
- Under the guise of 'equality', redefining would instead bring breakdown; A breakdown of what is morally right, a breakdown of family and breakdown of protection for children. Then further to that, a breakdown of our Australian society and way of life.
- To muddy the definition of marriage would bring confusion; Confusion about right and wrong both morally and in the context of a family. Confusion in a child's inquisitive mind about the beginning of life and how family and community works.

The desires by some to put a seal or stamp of a definition of marriage on any other union that is not a marriage undermines the very value of what marriage is and represents.

This submission is made in sincerity and truth trusting that this committee acts for what is right and best for our Australian society and people.

Yours Faithfully
