

Dear Human Rights Sub-Committee,

I believe that one of the gravest dangers to religious freedom in Australia is the relentless push to redefine marriage other than as the union of a man and a woman. If marriage were so redefined, it would expose individuals and organisations to much greater risk of attracting complaints under state and territory anti-discrimination laws even if they so much as express their view of marriage or cannot, by reason of conscience, conform to changed social, educational or legal requirements that flow from that redefinition.

The implications are severe, not just for religious freedom to worship, but for other associated rights such as freedom of speech, employment and education that are clearly recognised in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPRs, Article 18) which expressly states, "Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom ... to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching."

Some overseas examples of where these rights have been impacted by homosexual 'marriage' legislation include those of Aaron and Melissa Klein, owners of Sweet Cakes by Melissa in Oregon, US, who were fined \$135,000 for not providing a cake for a same-sex wedding; and also Elaine Huguenin, a photographer in New Mexico, US, was fined \$6,000 by the state Supreme Court after she declined to photograph a lesbian wedding.

This religious persecution will undoubtedly intensify greatly in Australia if homosexual 'marriage' is legalised. I therefore ask the committee to devote part of its report to warning of this danger.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Gordon GUDGEON

The following 28 people submitted versions of a Form Letter which were identical or substantially similar to Form Letter 6.

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|------------------------|
| Gordon Gudgeon |
| Steve & Helen Terpstra |
| Karen Mitchell |
| John Elliott |
| Rodney Hall |
| Kim Ausling |
| Jennifer Avery |
| Barrie Ryan |
| Bienne Tam |
| Bruce Burger |
| Drago & Linda Telisman |
| Riane & Rick Whittle |
| David & Di Macpherson |
| Basil & Kathy Bryan |

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|------------------------|
| Diana & Stacey Johnson |
| Michael Kelly |
| Rev Warwick Davidson |
| Rev Raj Gupta |
| Keith Tiller |
| Name withheld |
| Dr Tim Hamilton |
| Dirk Jackson |
| Bruce & Heather Hogan |
| Lorraine Schroeder |
| Cindy Colborne |
| Chris Boer |
| Shirley Dawes |
| Keith & Julie Gillam |