

To the Committee Secretary,

I am an Australian citizen, and a Christian. I have been inundated with appeals both from my fellow religionists and from those lobbying for same-sex marriage in recent weeks, suggesting I voice my support for their side of the argument. I do not entirely support either side.

I am, on the whole, offended by the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill. Not because I am opposed to same-sex marriage, but because I do not believe it is the business of any Australian government to regulate marriage. Marriage is a relationship between individuals, and not a relationship between individuals and their government. It is my opinion generally that every law regulating marriage in Australia should be repealed, not that any more should be introduced.

Failing this, I am also not entirely in favour of the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill because it does not deliver marriage equality. It maintains our governments' discrimination against some Muslims and Mormons (and presumably adherents of other religions), by failing to make polygamy acceptable under Australian law. This necessitates the division of migrant families as they enter our country, and is as discriminatory as prohibitions against same-sex marriage. Of what concern could it possibly be to the Australian government who anyone wants to marry?

The separation of church and state, as well as the multiculturalisation of Australian society, make marriage laws an archaic irrelevancy. Marriage equality is only possible by repealing all laws related to marriage.

Nonetheless, if our government is unable to achieve marriage equality, the amendments to our laws proposed in the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill do represent a step in the right direction. It is my belief that homosexual Australians should be able to choose to marry whomever they wish, with no interference by government, providing celebrants or ministers of any religion are permitted to refuse to marry any couple they choose. The incompetence of our government should not be a stumbling block to this.

Trevar