

To whom it may concern,

I strongly believe that the marriage act which says that marriage is between a man and a woman who enters voluntarily into a relationship for life to the exclusion of all others is appropriate to describe what the term marriage is. Which is a committed relationship between a man and woman.

To allow same sex couples to call their relationship a marriage is not what the act states and what the tradition of marriage is.

Marriage has for centuries even millennia been a term that means and describes a relationship between a man and a woman. It should stay that for the future as well. It is a valuable and precious term that describes a man and a woman's commitment to each other. To allow other relationships to be called a marriage i.e. same sex partners, simply demeans and cheapens what a marriage between a man and a woman really is, a committed relationship.

Marriage between a man and a woman who are committed to each other have been shown to be the best environments to raise children in our society. Marriage between heterosexual committed couples should be more socially encouraged and developed, for in strong mother and father families there will be stronger societies. Thus the watering of marriage by including same sex couples and devaluing the institution of a traditional marriage between a man and a woman will only cause more destructive relationship breakdowns and thus a more unstable society to live in. More youths and children will not know stability because there will be less and less stabilising influence from strong traditional family ties i.e. a mother and a father who are committed to each other and who are committed to raise their children the best they can.

Equality is not and should not be the issue for homosexual couples to be included in the marriage act. Firstly they have all the equity in laws of the land which the Government passed for them to be equal with any other relationship, i.e. Defacto or heterosexual relationships. Secondly homosexuals are equal as human beings but homosexual relationships are not equal to a heterosexual relationship because homosexual couples cannot mate and produce offspring. Nature determines they are not equal in terms as a fruitful child bearing relationship in comparison with a marriage between a man and a woman who can produce children themselves with out any third party help to do so. This in no way means that homosexual couples are less valued as human beings because they cannot procreate.

But there's a value that needs to be placed upon the term, function and institution of marriage between a man and a woman for this reason it needs to be protected from compromise or watering down by including any other so called loving relationships including same sex relationships. The Marriage act should remain to reflect only that committed relationship between a man and a woman for life to the exclusion of all others. Same sex couples can have civil unions if they wish, so let them call their civil unions whatever they want but leave marriage between a man and a woman as is.

I submit to you that the marriage act should remain as is and definitely should not be changed to include same sex couples or any other relationships.