Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Australia
Church & Nation Committee

30th March 2012

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
P.O. Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Members,

Marriage (Equality) Amendment Bill 2010

As you would be well familiar, at the beginning of each day when the Senate sits, the
President, upon taking the Chair, leads the Senate in the following prayer: “Almighty
God, we humbly beseech Thee to vouchsafe Thy special blessing upon this
Parliament, and that Thou wouldest be pleased to direct and prosper the work of Thy
servants to the advancement of Thy glory, and to the true welfare of the people of
Australia.”

In those words, you, as Senators, acknowledge the existence of God, you seek His
special blessing upon your work and labour, you acknowledge that you are God’s
servants and you seek that He would guide and prosper your work for the
advancement of His glory and the true welfare of the citizens of our nation.

As the confessed servants of God, it is incumbent upon you to do the will of God
because that is the function of a servant. Therefore, the question for you in respect of
whether it ought to be permissible for all people regardless of sex, sexuality or gender
identity, to marry is this; what does God have to say on this subject? The answer of
God is unambiguous. Marriage is to be between one man and one woman. In
Matthew 19:4-6, God, speaking through His Son, says, “Have ye not read, that he
which made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said ‘for this
cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they two
shall be one flesh’? Wherefore they are no more two, but one flesh. What therefore
God has joined together, let not man put asunder”.

Many in our nation have rejected God’s explicit pronouncements on this subject, but
that does not mean that the will of God has changed. It simply highlights the
arrogance and sinfulness of our society, including many in the professing Christian
curch. Society may deny it, you as legislators may refuse to acknowledge it, but the
Word of God stands. For the advancement of God’s glory, and the true welfare of the
citizens of Australia, I urge you to fulfil your God-given mandate and maintain the
Biblical view of marriage.

Yours in the service of Jesus Christ,

Rev. Mark Shand