

Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2010

Type	Private
Originating house	Senate
Status	Before Senate
Sponsor	HANSON-YOUNG, Sen Sarah

Summary

Amends the *Marriage Act 1961* to: remove discriminatory references based on sexual orientation and gender identity; and allow marriage regardless of sex, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Comments by Raymond Morris

Having immigrated to Australia from Canada in 2008, I can convey details of the redefinition of marriage in Canada. The bulk of the Canadian population were apathetic to the issue while the proponents and opponents of same-sex marriage had much to say. The federal governing party opposed same-sex marriage prior to the election but one year later they began to support the change. Calls for a referendum were rejected. A parliamentary vote for change failed in the House of Commons. However the government finally got their way by deceit. During the closing hours on the final day before the parliamentary summer recess when most members from Western Canada had left for the airport, government members emerged from hiding to vote in the legislation to permit same-sex marriage. Thus the legalization of same-sex marriage in Canada was accomplished by “dirty tricks”.

During the Canadian campaign for legalized same-sex marriage, the term “less than equal” was frequently employed to discredit all distinctions between men and women. This clearly showed an important difference of opinion between the two warring sides. Those on the anti-change side regarded men and women as two distinctly different creatures with unique strengths and weaknesses but complementary to the opposite sex. Those on the pro-change side appeared to regard men and women as identical creatures except for apparently minor anatomical differences.

The institution of marriage has served well for many centuries for the protection of women and children. Many marriages fail and some married couples choose not to have children. However no political agenda can honourably trample on the dignity of the many successfully married couples who have dedicated their lives to raising well-balanced children to take over when our generation has perished.

Strong friendship between two people is to be admired. The two people might be related to each other or they might be friends of long standing. However where is the justice in granting special privileges to two homosexuals while withholding those privileges from two non-homosexuals?

Most of us older Australians feel some guilt over the persecution of homosexuals many years ago but there are limits to our compassion and the same-sex marriage issue is unacceptable to many Australians.

*Submitted by Raymond Morris
on 26th March 2012*