

Hi Ann,

Thank you for getting in touch and for requesting context around the material I supplied.

I was directed to the website to supply advertising material for the 'no' campaign that I felt was propagating offensive, dangerous beliefs based on so called 'facts.'

I felt that leaflet was based in extremely loose facts (which are unfounded to my knowledge). I think it has the potential to be extremely offensive and harmful to the LGBTQI community. I worry for the safety and sense of well being of that community and their children and families at large. I think we have a duty of care to call out unnecessary and hateful behaviour directed at any marginalised community. I had assumed that the government would also maintain a responsibility to protect the vulnerable amongst us also.

I just got home to the attached leaflet in my letterbox which is sprouting further unfounded 'facts' on what marriage equality will mean. This time drawing a parallel between biology and marriage. This one gets me on a personal level. Marriage does not by its definition state that couples **need** to procreate. The government supports and subsidises assisted reproductive services for heterosexual couples which goes directly against the church's advocacy for natural biological procreation. As a community we are already actively supporting people who are unable to parent 'the natural way.' As someone who has used IVF to create a family with my husband, I find it extremely offensive that 'biology' and 'natural procreation' come into the conversation. Plenty of married couples will choose not to have children, and many are unable to. To try to apply their beliefs to the whole community offends not only the LGBTQI community they're afraid of (and therefore targeting) but those amongst us who weren't 'blessed' by the biological ability to procreate and those who wish to use marriage for what it is intended - 'a union to the exclusion of all others, entered into voluntarily and for life' and not to create a family from that union.

The reality is that majority of marriages happen in secular settings (according to the latest statistics released by the ABS) so therefore the argument that we should be taking our lead from religious teachings in marriage is completely redundant.

Ultimately I find this a disappointing and heartbreaking circulation of harmful material.

Please be in touch if you need any further clarification.


Warm regards,

Sophie

What your vote at this marriage survey means


'Yes' means

- Loss of Freedom of Speech**
Already we live in a climate of intimidation where civil debate is impossible. Those who support natural marriage are targeted if they speak up (like Hobart Archbishop Julian Porteus and legendary tennis player Margaret Court).
- Loss of Freedom of Religion**
Faith leaders will no longer be able to preach, schools will no longer be able to teach, and everyday Australians will no longer be able to conduct their businesses in accordance with their beliefs.
- Parents will lose the right to oppose radical sex education programs like "Safe Schools"**
If marriage is redefined, education programs and school policies will change. Increasingly, parents are excluded from having a say in the sex education of their children. Schools can subject your children to mandatory same sex curricula.
- Children lose**
We rightly feel for a child who loses a Mum or Dad. With the redefinition of marriage children will be forced into same sex unions where either a father or a mother is missing.



'No' means

- We safeguard the family, faith and freedom.
- We protect the **right of parents** to teach their child about their own beliefs regarding sexuality and marriage.
- We ensure that the **right to civil debate** is protected from attempts to intimidate many into silence through political correctness.
- We affirm the truth and reality that we all know deep inside:
 - that only a man and a woman can make a marriage.
 - that every child has a right to a Mum and Dad.



A 'No' vote is a yes to REAL marriage

Only one of these works



Only one of these is a **REAL** seat belt



Only one of these is a **REAL** marriage.
It's biology not bigotry.