

RABBINICAL COUNCIL OF NSW INC

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31 March 2012

STATEMENT FROM THE RABBINICAL COUNCIL OF NSW ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee:-

The Rabbinical Council of NSW represents all Orthodox and mainstream synagogues in NSW

The Rabbinical Council of NSW Inc (RCNSW) states and affirms as follows:-

- 1) The definition of marriage as stipulated in the Marriage Legislation Amendment Act 2004, namely that "marriage means the union of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others" is consistent with the traditional definition of marriage expressed in sacred Jewish texts and accepted throughout the ages by the other major world faiths.
- 2) At Mount Sinai, the giving of the Torah included reiteration of a set of key universal laws and values binding and adopted by civilised societies throughout the world since time immemorial.
- 3) Central to the key universal values expressed in the Torah are norms relating to human sexuality which endorse the stable sexual union of a man and a woman in a socially recognised relationship of mutual commitment whilst rejecting other sexual unions notably adultery, incest, bestiality and homosexuality.
- 4) It has been proven and demonstrated globally throughout history that the institution of marriage is central to the formation of a healthy society and to the concept of family. By virtue of their very physical make-up, human beings are able to achieve self-actualisation through participation in the higher union of man and woman within marriage resulting in the production of offspring who are raised in a stable and moral home and who possess an innate and close connection with the mother and father who conceived and gave birth to the child.
- 5) The Torah mandates that all human beings, created as they are in the image of G-D, are to be cherished and loved by their fellows. The lifestyle choices made by individuals do not affect the precept that they be treated with respect and love. Nevertheless it is our firm conviction that all humankind remains bound by the aforementioned universal moral code handed down by G-D at Mount Sinai 3,300 years ago.
- 6) The RCNSW views with profound concern efforts to redefine marriage and thus legally sanction same-sex marriage. It urges most earnestly that the integrity of marriage in its traditional and time-hallowed form will be preserved.

For further information please call RCNSW Honorary Secretary ...