The Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600.

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to submit the following statement regarding the Seventh-day Adventist Church's' stance on marriage and same-sex unions. (I apologise for submitting this one day late)

Marriage is the monogamous, lifelong union between a man and a woman. As such, marriage is the natural basis of the family because it secures the relationship between biological parents and their children, and provides a microcosm of social unity that is time-honoured as a core ingredient of stable societies.

The Church wishes to confirm its commitment to promote and protect marriage. We honour the unique love between husbands and wives; the vital place of fathers and mothers in the life of children; and the corresponding ideal for all children to know the love and role modelling of a father and mother.

Marriage thus defined is a great good in itself, and it also serves the good of others and society. The preservation of the unique meaning of marriage is therefore not a special or limited interest, but serves the common good, particularly the good of children.

We call on Government to:

- protect this definition of marriage in Australian law, and
- not change the meaning of marriage by adding to it different kinds of relationships.

Thanking you,

Trafford A Fischer, JP

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