

**Gail Easton**

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**From:** Chris Twinn  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2011 4:44 PM  
**To:** Legal Affairs Police Corrective Services and Emerg Svc Committee  
**Cc:** Senator Brett Mason; Rod McGarvie  
**Subject:** Submission opposing Civil Partnerships Bill 2011  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg

Research Director  
Legal Affairs, Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

October 28, 2011

I would like to register my opposition to Mr Andrew Fraser's same sex 'Civil partnerships' bill 2001.

This bill is an attempt to mimic marriage, which is a Federal issue not a state issue. May I please remind the Committee that in 2004 both major parties agreed to insert the definition of marriage as the union of a man and a woman into the *Marriage Act*.

The attempt by Senator Hanson-Young's Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2010 was also an attempt to undermine marriage in our society and was appropriately defeated.

The amendments stated in the Bill as 'minor or consequential' are in fact substantial and constantly seek to include 'Civil Partnership' into Marriage status often by omitting the word 'spouse'. This is just another attempt to fundamentally change what marriage is. Marriage is, not just by law but by intrinsic substance the union of one man and one woman. To deviate from that absolute is to change the definition of marriage itself.

A same-sex "Civil Union" will undermine marriage because it seeks to equate any loving relationship between any two consenting adults in the same category, for legal purposes as a marriage. The aims of the bill seem to be to recognise freedom of sexuality and to celebrate diversity, but these are not the values of marriage, which upholds commitment, fidelity, and the stable nurturing of children.

Marriage between one man and one woman is required to give a 30 day Notice of Intent to marry. This Civil union bill shows within itself that it doesn't take the commitment seriously by only requiring 10 days before the registration of the 'Civil Union'. Are we to see all the benefits of marriage with a cheapened requirement? Surely not! Indeed it is a lesser requirement because it is not a true union.

Australia must hold its ground on this issue of marriage. Other nations that have deviated from this bedrock definition have paid a heavy cost.

Overwhelmingly Australians hold marriage as a unique and special relationship that still identifies the highest relationship status of a legal union. It is reserved rightly so for that relationship that, for the most part, contributes to the continuance of the human race by procreation in a legally and morally stable environment, (understanding that some marriages do not procreate by, either choice or mutual abstaining of conception). Marriage is the best

environment in which to nurture children and any attempt to weaken this should and must be resisted. Let us not be the generation that experimented only to regret!

Federal law clearly defines that a marriage is between a man and a woman? That is not discriminatory, that is descriptive. This is much like the description of what legally makes a man a male and a woman a female. Can these definitions be changed because a woman feels that for her to not be referred to as a man is discriminatory? No. If a woman could legally be called a man then we would be redefining what a man is, so also if we redefined that marriage was between "two people" instead of between a "man and a woman" we would be changing what marriage actually is. Discrimination (or what was deemed discrimination) was removed by the amendments to 84 laws by the Federal Government in 2008.

I believe that Queensland State Labor should respect the election promises made by Federal Labor and Prime Minister Julia Gillard to protect Marriage, which again is a Federal issue not a State issue.

Sincerely

Reverend Christopher Twinn

*Chris Twinn*

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