

**SUBMISSION TO THE SENATE**  
**LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**INQUIRING INTO THE MARRIAGE EQUITY BILL**

The proposal contained in the Marriage Equity Bill if adopted would destroy in Australia, and contribute to the destruction worldwide, of the universal cultural and historical meaning of marriage as a union between a man and a woman. Marriage is discriminatory by definition. It is exclusive and restricted by age, kinship and many other factors.

This traditional and discriminatory meaning of marriage has stood the test of time for aeons because of the superior social benefits that a sustained marriage between a man and a woman, and their children raised within that family, brings to society. Compared to alternatives, traditional marriage is the foundation upon which society stands. It should be the aim of public policy to strengthen and support sustained traditional marriage for the benefits it generates for all Australians, whether married or not.

This link between marriage and superior social benefit has, with hindsight, become much clearer, now that the social effects of the operation of the Family Law Act over the past thirty years have surfaced and can be seen. The evidence is there. Let's see if our Parliament can fix those problems before making further changes to undermine traditional marriage.

Sustained traditional marriage has proven itself to be a national treasure. Proposals to debase the coinage of this treasure are unwise, and would place at jeopardy its universal and historical benefits, create more human misery and place further burdens upon the public purse.