

PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS ABN 56 354 724 462 30 Helen Street, Teneriffe QLD 4006 Email: <u>pflagbris@bigpond.com</u> Mob 0409 363 335

MP.....

Electorate.....

Dear .....

I am writing to you discuss the issue of Plebiscite vs Free Vote in Parliament.

Select one below:

- ..... As a person in a same sex relationship
- .....An LGBTIQ person
- .....As a parent of a son/daughter in a same sex relationship
- .....As a person who believes in equality

Changes to the marriage act have always been part of the parliamentary process. We never had a Plebiscite when John Howard changed the marriage act in 2004. We never had a Plebiscite when the legislation passed for indigenous people to marry without asking the Protectorate for permission etc etc.

Marriage is continually evolving and the meaning of marriage to individuals varies between couples. Marriages now are mixed race, mixed religion and blended families all with their own family values and beliefs.

If a Plebiscite is permitted:

- 1. It will be unnecessarily expensive for a country in economic crisis
- 2. The impact of fear and uncertainty will most certainly have a very negative impact on the mental health of same sex couples and their families.
- 3. This is diametrically opposed to the priority government is giving to improve mental health issues as a priority.
- 4. Additionally, parents believe a Plebiscite is insulting. Our sons and daughters rights are left to the general public to decide possibly on a whim, lack of information and/or ignorance. However, our sons and daughters have much to lose and much to gain.
- 5. We also feel that a Plebiscite is cowardly, removing any responsibility on the outcome from the elected government, who as noted earlier would still have to make the changes which should be just seen as parliamentary process.
- 6. You our government may again choose to defer and not act on the outcome of a Plebiscite even if the outcome is positive

In conclusion, I am calling on you the elected MP of my electorate to encourage a Free Vote which has zero cost, is more respectful and continue with what has always been just parliamentary procedure regarding the issue of marriage.

## Personal

Comments	

Name	
Address	
Mob	
Email	

