

Media Release

Marriage Delegation Congratulates Government, Opposition and Family First on Defeat of Homosexual Marriage Bill

On Thursday 25th February 2010 members of the Marriage Delegation met with parliamentarians from both sides of the House to **present policies to strengthen marriage and congratulate them on their stand for the definition of marriage as in the Marriage Act**, "That marriage means the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life."

The **49 member Marriage Delegation represented many Australians, indigenous and non-indigenous**, who are passionate for the renewal of marriage and the restoration of family in Australia.

Gerard Calilhanna, spokesperson for the Marriage Delegation, said:

"The Marriage Delegation was pleased that the Government, Opposition and Family First confirmed their support of marriage between a man and a woman by the rejection of the Green's Bill."

Calilhanna continued, *"In a recent Australia Day, major newspaper Galaxy Poll, Australians were asked the question, "Do you think Australia has changed in the last 20 years?" The answer was surprising considering our nationalistic Australia Day euphoria. 52% said that Australia was worse. 39% said Australia was better and 9% of Australians had not noticed.*

The Marriage Delegation represented more than 52% of people in Australia who are deeply concerned by our increasing levels of family breakdown, high divorce rate, high rates of cohabitation without marriage, the declining status of marriage, higher rates of violence against women and children, rising rates of violence in the playground and general societal decay. The Marriage Delegation placed before the leaders of our nation, a plan of action to stem the tide of this degradation."

The purpose of the Marriage Delegation was to meet with parliamentarians to present specific policies to support and strengthen Australian marriage. **The Marriage Delegation presented the [Marriage Manifesto](#) as its foundational blueprint for the development of public policy by government, to strengthen and support marriage in Australia for the common good of all, especially Australia's children.** It also presented a one page policy brief (attached) that highlighted four key points to strengthen and support marriage and called on the Government to reject homosexual relationship registration as proposed by the NSW Government.

Gerard Calilhanna concluded, *"All such schemes undermine marriage and rob children of their biological birthright to a mother and a father. A recent Galaxy poll, November 2009, showed 86% of Australians believe that children are best raised by their own biological mother and father."*

For further comment contact:

Marriage Delegation Chairman – Gerard Calilhanna – 0417 487 844