Kids need a mum and a dad!

Please help defeat Clover Moore's new bill which would allow

same-sex couple adoption

On 24 June 2010, Independent MP Clover Moore introduced the *Adoption Amendment (Same Sex Couples) Bill* in the NSW Legislative Assembly. It would change our adoption laws to allow homosexual or lesbian couples to adopt NSW babies and children.

NSW Labor Premier Kristina Keneally has allowed a conscience vote, but says she will vote for the bill. Only urgent action from NSW voters can defeat this bill and allow adopted children their right to have both a mum and a dad. The vote could take place in early September.

What can we do?

Please write to, phone or email your local lower house (Legislative Assembly) MP, and as many as possible of the upper house (Legislative Council) MPs, as soon as you can. Include your name and home address in your letter or email. Letters should be sent to the MPs before the end of August, addressed to **Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000**. Email addresses and phone numbers are listed on the next page.

What can we say?

Ask the MP to vote against the Clover Moore adoption bill and include **one or two** of the following points, ***using your own words***:

1. Children learn different things from their mum and dad, and likewise adopted children – they need both mother and father role models.
2. There are already long waiting lists of male-female couples with good parenting skills who long to adopt a child – the wait would be even longer if homosexual couples were allowed to adopt.
3. Parenting and care orders are available to same-sex partners who want to help raise a child: adoption is not needed to solve legal issues in these cases.
4. The bill would put faith-based adoption agencies at risk of litigation if they have a policy of putting the best interests of the child (i.e. the right to a mum and a dad) as a priority in choosing adoptive parents. Some Christian agencies could be forced to pay huge sums in legal costs if this bill is passed.
5. Adopted children already struggle with feeling different from their adoptive family – being adopted by homosexual or lesbian parents would exacerbate the child's feelings of alienation.
6. Adoption is a service for the benefit of the child, not adults. No adult has a "fundamental right" to parent a child. The best interests of the child, including his or her right to both a mum and a dad, must always be paramount.

For more information, contact Rev Steve Estherby, FamilyVoice NSW State Officer
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