



**Rabbinical Council of Victoria**

Religious Leadership for the Jewish Community

ועד הרבנים דויקטוריה

**President: Rabbi Yaakov Glasman**

**Executive Director: Ari Morris**

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## **Statement from the Rabbinical Council of Victoria**

### ***Same-Sex Marriage***

In view of the Inquiry into the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2012 and the Marriage Amendment Bill 2012, the Rabbinical Council of Victoria Inc. (RCV) states and affirms as follows:

- The Torah and its commentaries are the principal sources of moral values for adherents to the Jewish faith and for those whose faith derives from it. It has been the basis of Western moral systems for millennia. The Torah's conception of marriage is a covenantal relationship between men and women. According to Torah values, any marital relationship between two people of the same gender would be abhorrent;
- The definition of marriage as stipulated in the Marriage Legislation Amendment Act 2004, that is, that *"marriage, means the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life"*, is consistent with the millennia-old definition of marriage expressed in Jewish texts and accepted throughout the ages by the other major world religions;
- The institution of marriage is central to the formation of a healthy society and to the concept of family. By virtue of their very physical makeup, human beings are meant to seek self-actualization through participation in the higher union of man and woman in marriage and the production of offspring who are raised in a stable and morally upright home and who possess an innate and close connection with the father and mother who conceived and gave birth to the child;
- The RCV views with extreme concern efforts to redefine marriage and thus legalise same-sex marriage and expresses its intense hope that the integrity of marriage in its traditional form will be preserved.

**For further information please call RCV Executive Director Ari Morris**