

The Hon. Michael D. Kirby AC CMG

22 September 2010

THE POTENTIAL WEDDING ALBUM

I send best wishes for your project.

It is one of many endeavours by citizens of Australia, heterosexual, homosexual and bisexual, to question the stand of successive federal governments in denying amendments to the *Marriage Act* in order to open up marriage to all citizens, irrespective of their sexuality.

Many countries and states have now taken this step, including The Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Canada, South Africa, Massachusetts and several states of the United States of America, Mexico City, and Argentina.

Increasingly, the refusal to provide formal federal legislative recognition to the dignity and equality of all adult long-term and consenting sexual relationships is being seen for what it is. The imposition on some citizens of the religious prejudices of others. And the denial to some citizens of true civic equality on the prejudiced basis of variations in sexuality.

These irrational policies will, as we all know, eventually fade away in Australia. When that happens, those who have stood up for equality will be counted. The question is not whether particular citizens would elect to be married, if that status were available. The question is by what right it is denied in a secular society which keeps the religious beliefs of some out of bedrooms of others.



Laureate of the Gruber Justice Prize
2010

Laureate for the UNESCO Prize for
Human Rights Education 1998

Winner Australian Human Rights
Medal 1991