How would you characterise your views on the Bill in general?

In support

As has been noted elsewhere, it seems that the "spousal veto" clause is bizarre. If the spouse has been happy to live with their partner for two years while they were living in their destination gender, then why is it an issue? It's only practical use would be as a lever for revenge should the relationship sour in the intervening period.

How would you characterise your views on the introduction of same sex marriage, so that same sex couples can marry each other?

In support

How would you characterise your views on putting belief celebrants on the same footing as religious celebrants?

In support

I find the terms chosen to be confusing to the lay reader. The definition of "belief celebrant" is not at all obvious. However, it seems just plain silly to differentiate legally based on religion.

How would you characterise your views on the arrangements for authorising celebrants to solemnise opposite sex and same sex marriage (including the opt-in procedures)?

Neither

In truth, I am slightly opposed to the idea that treating people differently due to their sexual orientation is acceptable in a role that is sanctioned by law. The law should be blind to sexual orientation, even if some institutions are not.

How would you characterise your views on civil partnerships changing to marriages?

In support

How would you characterise your views on allowing civil marriage ceremonies to take place anywhere, other than religious premises, agreed between the couple and registrar?

In support

I would prefer this to apply to all marriages.
How would you characterise your views on allowing the religious and belief registration of civil partnerships?

Neither

How would you characterise your views on allowing transgender persons to stay married when obtaining a full Gender Recognition Certificate, which provides legal recognition in the acquired gender?

In support

Assuming both parties are in agreement. It should be legitimate grounds for divorce.

Would you like to comment on the wider issue of protections for those in society who may have concerns about same sex marriage?

I don’t understand why anyone else has a right to veto the marriages of third parties. Therefore, is someone has a concern about same sex marriage, then they simply shouldn’t have one.

Would you like to comment on the wider issue of freedom of speech?

Freedom of speech must accept a degree of responsibility when the discussion revolves around specific individuals.

Would you like to comment on any other wider issues in relation to the Bill that are not mentioned above?

Are you responding as...

a private individual

John NcCallum
23 August 2013