

FIRST THE AMA, NOW THE LAW SOCIETY ACCUSED OF SPINNING FOR GAY MARRIAGE

Andrew Bolt, Herald Sun
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First the Australian Medical Association was caught out backing same-sex marriage without consulting members and misstating the evidence. Now the NSW Law Society is attacked for doing the same. What makes same-sex marriage supporters so highhanded? Then there's fresh examples of vitriolic bullying as well.

[The AMA:](#)

A former senior Australian Medical Association official has lashed out at the peak medical body's campaign for same-sex marriage, accusing it of using false and misleading information in claiming the reform was a public health issue.

Dr Chris Middleton, a former president of the Tasmanian AMA, has joined with five AMA members in penning a 15-page report savaging the credibility of the national body's Position Statement on Marriage Equality.

Dr Middleton, who was inducted in the AMA Roll of Fellows in 2011, renounced his life membership of the body and was critical of its process to adopt a position in favour of gay marriage, saying the membership was not consulted...

Dr Middleton's report was scathing of the AMA for its "demonstrably false" claim that children raised by gay parents do not suffer poorer psychological health than children who are raised by their biological mother and father...

"Decades of research have confirmed that children do best, on average, when raised by their married biological mother and father," the report said.

"By denying publicly that there is any such evidence of detriment to children, while admitting privately that there is, the AMA has misled the public on a crucial aspect of the marriage debate and must be held to account."...

Dr Middleton said the AMA also provided “feeble” evidence for its assertion that legalising same-sex marriage would improve the health of gay people and give them better access to healthcare...

Some 400 doctors have signed a letter of protest against the AMA.

[But now the NSW Law Society is accused of the same behaviour:](#)

The dean of law at Sydney’s Notre Dame University and a coalition of barristers and academics have joined the revolt over the endorsement of same-sex marriage by the legal profession’s peak associations in NSW.

Professor Michael Quinlan, who heads the university’s law school in Sydney, is the most senior of 11 legal academics and lawyers who have issued a joint statement denouncing the NSW Law Society and the state’s Bar Association for endorsing same-sex marriage “laws” before draft legislation has been made public and without consulting members.

Their statement calls for both organisations to apologise and immediately withdraw the endorsement.

It contained errors of law and had left the misleading impression that all lawyers in NSW support gay marriage, the statement says...

Sydney solicitor Robin Speed, who is president of the Rule of Law Institute, has given Law Society president Pauline Wright until 4pm next Friday to dissociate the organisation from the joint press release or face the prospect of legal action.

Mr Speed believes the Law Society has given the false and misleading impression that gay marriage is favoured by all 29,000 solicitors in NSW.

An organisation of Catholic lawyers, the St Thomas More Society, says solicitors have complained of being intimidated at their workplaces for publicly criticising the endorsement of same-sex marriage by the professional associations and law firms.

The statement by Professor Quinlan and the other signatories says the three professional bodies made an error when their joint press release suggested the definition of marriage in Australia may be discriminatory under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

“This is simply not correct,” the statement says.

The behaviour of so many same-sex marriage supporters has been astonishing. It seems they feel justified in doing anything in pursuit of their cause, which includes trampling on the rights of others.

[Another example:](#)

The family of a Victorian woman who fronts a national TV campaign opposing same-sex marriage has been vilified on social media and their church threatened with violence after LGBTI activists falsely claimed they were behind an ad in the local newspaper critical of homosexuality.

Heidi McIvor, her husband Julian McIvor and the City Builders Church in Sale, where they both work as pastors, have been subjected to false accusations and insults over an unattributed ad in The Gippsland Times a week ago urging people to vote against changing the Marriage Act.

Ms McIvor did not pay for the ad to be placed. Nor did Mr McIvor, who is also the advertising manager at the local paper. The church has previously campaigned for traditional marriage.

The parents of two have been accused of spreading hate speech and being morally bankrupt. Their names and phone numbers have been splashed all over Facebook, resulting in Mr McIvor being hit with a steady stream of abuse.

“I hope he hasn’t got children that have his DNA,” one Facebook post read.

“Let’s burn there (sic) church,” piped in another.

If the roles were reversed and we had gay-marriage activists subjected to this stuff it would be a major national scandal in the eyes of politicians and the ABC.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/blogs/andrew-bolt/first-the-ama-now-the-law-society-accused-of-spinning-for-gay-marriage/news-story/452a99380450cd21dbae80678bb4924c>