

ISSUE AND CONTEXT



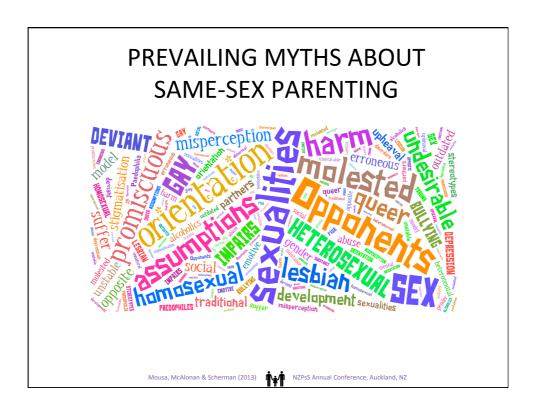


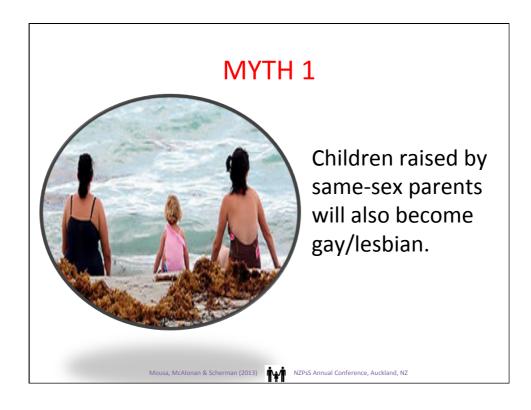
- Greater acceptability of gay and lesbian (G/L) people
- Still concerns over same-sex marriage, and in particular, parenting by G/L couples
- Passage of Marriage Equity Bill (April, 2013) means same-sex couples can legally adopt

Mousa, McAlonan & Scherman (2013)



NZPsS Annual Conference, Auckland, NZ





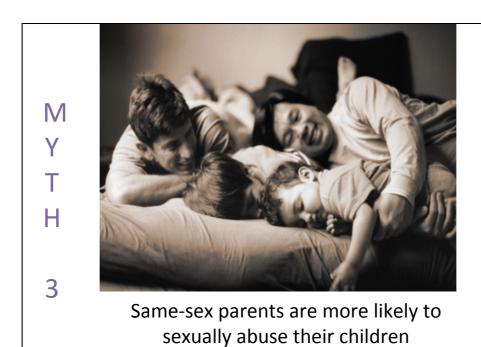
MYTH 2



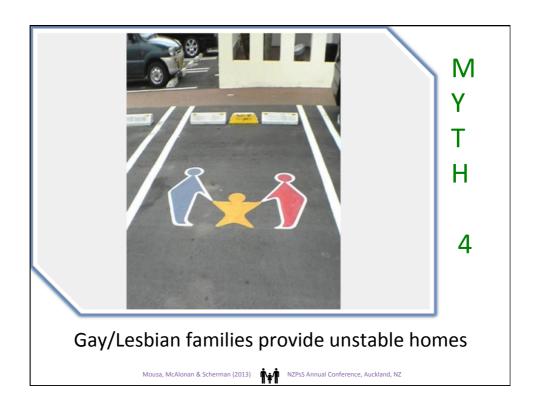
Children will be psychologically impaired and suffer social harm.



Mousa, McAlonan & Scherman (2013) NZPsS Annual Conference, Auckland, NZ



Mousa, McAlonan & Scherman (2013) NZPSS Annual Conference, Auckland, NZ



SUMMARY

- G/L parents still face discrimination stemming from antiquated stereotypes.
- No research evidence to suggest that any of the myths are true.
- G/L parents are successfully raising healthy and adjusted children, based on studies looking at:
 - School performance
 - Gender development
 - Psychological and behavioural adjustment





Mousa, McAlonan & Scherman (2013

IMPLICATIONS



- Need to support rather than restrict same-sex couples wishing to adopt
- Need to educate not only the public but also agency personnel about the value of G/L adoptive parenting

Mousa, McAlonan & Scherman (2013)



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