



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

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A circular photograph showing three people (two adults and a child) sitting on a rocky shore, looking out at the ocean waves. The person on the left is wearing a dark swimsuit, the child in the middle is wearing a pink swimsuit, and the person on the right is wearing a dark swimsuit. They are all looking out at the ocean waves.

Children raised by
same-sex parents
will also become
gay/lesbian.

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MYTH 2



Children will be psychologically
impaired and suffer social harm.

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MYTH 3



Same-sex parents are more likely to
sexually abuse their children

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Gay/Lesbian families provide unstable homes

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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



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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

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