



Same Sex Marriages, Civil Union and Adoption

The issue:

Recently a Private Member's Bill concerning same sex marriages, civil unions and adoption was introduced into Parliament. If passed into law, same sex couples would be allowed to marry, and same sex couples in civil unions would be allowed to adopt children.

The poll questions:

Research New Zealand decided to investigate public opinion on these issues, and asked three questions in its September omnibus survey as follows:

- ◆ A bill was recently introduced in Parliament, which, if it becomes law, would allow same sex couples to marry. Are you in favour or not in favour of same sex couples being allowed to marry?
- ◆ At present, same sex couples are not permitted to adopt children. If same sex couples were to marry, they would be able to adopt children under the present law. In your view, should same sex couples who are married, be able to adopt children?
- ◆ And in your view, should same sex civil union couples be able to adopt children?

Key results:

1. Same sex marriage

Almost one-half of respondents (49 percent) were in favour of allowing same sex couples to marry, while 32 percent were not in favour. A small group of 15 percent said they did not mind one way or the other.

The demographic groups that are particularly in favour of same sex couples being allowed to marry are **females** (59 percent), and those in the **18-34 year and 35-54 year age groups** (61 percent and 57 percent respectively).

In comparison, there is strong resistance to same sex marriages amongst those aged **55 years and over**, where 30 percent are **in favour** while 53 percent are **not in favour**.



2. Same sex married couples and adoption

Almost two-thirds of respondents (64 percent) were in favour of same sex couples being able to adopt children if they were married, while 31 percent were not in favour.

As before, the demographic groups that are particularly in favour of this are **females** (71 percent), and respondents in the **age groups 18-34 years and 35-54 years** (76 percent and 71 percent respectively).

Those in the **age group 55 years and over** tend to be split in their opposition (44 percent in favour and 49 percent not in favour).

3. Same sex Civil Unions and adoption of children

When it comes to allowing same sex couples in civil unions to adopt children, we find that 62 percent of the respondents were in favour and 34 percent were not in favour.

As before, respondents that are particularly in favour are **females** (69 percent), and those in the **18-34 year** and **35 to 54 year age groups** (72 percent and 71 percent respectively).

Those in the age group **55 years and over** are more divided on the issue (43 percent in favour and 52 percent not in favour).

“It is clear that the gay community has a good deal of support amongst the general public when it comes to same sex couples being able to marry, and being able to adopt children, whether they are married or in a civil union”, said Research New Zealand Director, Emanuel Kalafatelis.

The Research New Zealand poll of 500 people aged 18 and over was conducted by telephone from 11-17 September. The maximum margin of error for the sample as a whole is +/-4.7% (at the 95% confidence level). The data has been weighted to ensure it is an accurate representation of the general population of New Zealand. The poll was not taken on behalf of any organisation, but as part of Research New Zealand’s monthly survey of attitudes and opinions.

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Table 1:

Q6. These next few questions are about laws and legislation. A bill was recently introduced in Parliament which, if it becomes law, would allow same sex couples to marry. Are you in favour or not in favour of same sex couples being allowed to marry?

	Total	Male	Female
Base =	500	250	250
	%	%	%
Yes, in favour	49	39	59
No, not in favour	32	38	26
Don't mind one way or the other	15	20	11
Don't know	3	3	4
Total	100	100	100

The base numbers shown are unweighted counts.
Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 2:

Q6. These next few questions are about laws and legislation. A bill was recently introduced in Parliament which, if it becomes law, would allow same sex couples to marry. Are you in favour or not in favour of same sex couples being allowed to marry?

	Total	18-34 years	35 to 54 years	55 years and over
Base =	500	81	180	239
	%	%	%	%
Yes, in favour	49	61	57	30
No, not in favour	32	20	24	53
Don't mind one way or the other	15	14	17	15
Don't know	3	5	3	3
Total	100	100	100	100

The base numbers shown are unweighted counts.
Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



Table 3:

Q7. At present, same sex couples are not permitted to adopt children. If same sex couples were to marry, they would be able to adopt children under the present law.

	Total	Male	Female
Base =	500	250	250
	%	%	%
Yes	64	56	71
No	31	38	25
Don't know	5	6	4
Total	100	100	100

The base numbers shown are unweighted counts.
Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 4:

Q7. At present, same sex couples are not permitted to adopt children. If same sex couples were to marry, they would be able to adopt children under the present law. In your view should

	Total	18-34 years	35 to 54 years	55 years and over
Base =	500	81	180	239
	%	%	%	%
Yes	64	76	71	44
No	31	21	24	49
Don't know	5	4	4	7
Total	100	100	100	100

The base numbers shown are unweighted counts.
Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



Table 5:

Q8. And in your view should same sex Civil Union couples be able to adopt children?

	Total	Male	Female
Base =	500	250	250
	%	%	%
Yes	62	55	69
No	34	41	27
Don't know	4	4	4
Total	100	100	100

The base numbers shown are unweighted counts.
Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 6:

Q8. And in your view should same sex Civil Union couples be able to adopt children?

	Total	18-34 years	35 to 54 years	55 years and over
Base =	500	81	180	239
	%	%	%	%
Yes	62	72	71	43
No	34	26	25	52
Don't know	4	2	4	5
Total	100	100	100	100

The base numbers shown are unweighted counts.
Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

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