



## **Same Sex Marriages**

Under New Zealand law same sex couples can have their relationship recognised in law by entering a civil union. Same sex partners cannot marry. Recently, the State of New York made it possible for same sex partners to marry, which created some interest here in New Zealand.

Research New Zealand asked a question in their most recent social poll to establish the attitudes of New Zealanders to same sex marriages.

Some 60 percent of New Zealanders 18 years and over believe that same sex marriages should be permitted in New Zealand; 34 percent are opposed. Two percent state that there is little or no difference between civil unions and marriage; a further two percent do not know.

Females are in favour of same sex marriages to a larger extent than males by 66 percent to 54 percent. Likewise, a higher proportion of males than females oppose same sex marriages at 41 percent to 27. The attitude to same sex marriage is strongly related to age group; in the age group 15–34 years, 70 percent are in favour compared to 44 percent among those 55 years and over.

There were no significant differences in attitude between respondents in other demographics such as ethnicity, area, income.

“This shows that attitudes in this area are in advance of legislation”, said Research New Zealand Director Emanuel Kalafatelis.

*The Research New Zealand poll of 500 people aged 18 and over was conducted by telephone on 6–9 July 2011. The maximum margin of error for the sample as a whole is +/- 4.6 % (at the 95% confidence level). The data has been weighted to ensure it is an accurate representation of New Zealand's general population. The poll was not taken on behalf of any organization, but as part of Research New Zealand's monthly survey of attitudes and opinions.*

**Contact:** Emanuel Kalafatelis  
Director  
Research New Zealand Limited  
P O Box 10-617  
Wellington 6143  
Ph. 04-462-6401 (DDI); 027-500-4401 (M)



**Table 1:**

*Q14. The next few questions are on a range of topical issues, the first is on marriage... In your view, should same sex couples also be allowed to marry?*

	Base =	Total	Male	Female
		500	250	250
		%	%	%
Yes		60	54	66
No		34	41	27
Little or no difference between a civil union and marriage		2	2	2
Don't know		4	3	4
Refused		0	0	0
Total		100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

**Table 2:**

*Q14. The next few questions are on a range of topical issues, the first is on marriage... In your view, should same sex couples also be allowed to marry?*

	Base =	Total	18-34 years	35 to 54 years	55 years and over
		500	91	181	228
		%	%	%	%
Yes		60	79	61	44
No		34	19	32	49
Little or no difference between a civil union and marriage		2	0	2	3
Don't know		4	2	4	5
Refused		0	0	1	0
Total		100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

**Table 3:**

*Q14. The next few questions are on a range of topical issues, the first is on marriage... In your view, should same sex couples also be allowed to marry?*

	Base =	Total	NZ European/ Pakeha	Maori/ Pacific	Other
		500	374	58	68
		%	%	%	%
Yes		60	61	66	49
No		34	34	32	36
Little or no difference between a civil union and marriage		2	2	0	0
Don't know		4	2	2	13
Refused		0	0	0	2
Total		100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



**Table 4:**

*Q14. The next few questions are on a range of topical issues, the first is on marriage... In your view, should same sex couples also be allowed to marry?*

	Base =	Total 500 %	Upper North Island 217 %	Lower/ Central North Island 90 %	South Island 193 %
Yes		60	57	62	64
No		34	38	31	30
Little or no difference between a civil union and marriage		2	2	1	2
Don't know		4	2	7	4
Refused		0	1	0	0
Total		100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

**Table 5:**

*Q14. The next few questions are on a range of topical issues, the first is on marriage... In your view, should same sex couples also be allowed to marry?*

	Base =	Total 500 %	Under \$40,000 181 %	At least \$40,000 but less than \$80,000 150 %	\$80,000 or more 137 %	Don't know/refused 32 %
Yes		60	59	60	61	64
No		34	36	33	32	36
Little or no difference between a civil union and marriage		2	1	2	3	0
Don't know		4	4	5	3	0
Refused		0	1	0	1	0
Total		100	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

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