

Submission for the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2010

I fully support same-sex marriage, and the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill.

I have two young children from a previous marriage to a man, now divorced. For the last four years I have been in a relationship with someone who happens to be a woman, and now I discover I cannot get married to the person I love. This caring woman has lived with myself and my two children for all but the first six months of this time. During this time, she has been entirely dedicated to lovingly parenting my children, and has been a wonderful supportive partner. She has put everything she has to offer into this family. My children love her deeply, and have asked again and again "When are you getting married?".

How do we answer this question? How do we show to our society and to our children that both of us are committed to each other and also to these two beautiful children? They still see their father regularly and they are very happy to have three parents who fulfill their needs, like any other step-family situation. We are so limited legally in so many ways. My children have drawn wedding dress designs, invitations, a list of invitees, drawn a picture of the wedding and all the decorations...

Please give my children and our family the social and legal recognition we need to be treated equally alongside heterosexual couples. It just doesn't make sense! Marriage no longer belongs to religion. It belongs to our society, as a whole, as a vital element imprinted into our legal and social systems, which currently causes many couples to be treated inequitably. And simply because a person happens to have fallen in love with a woman instead of a man.

With best wishes to all to be treated with equity.