

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Re: Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2010

I am writing to you reluctantly, because I feel this whole process is a waste of time that would be better spent on health, education, refugees or a hundred other issues that Parliament should be worrying about.

Some people are gay. They just are. It's nobody's choice, any more than someone chooses to be left handed. I am not gay myself, but like everybody else I know people who are. They are just as capable as anybody else of forming deep, lasting relationships. I can't think of a single reason, other than prejudice, why they would not be allowed to marry. They live in our communities, they pay taxes, they support the economy, what is the basis for discriminating against them?

Some Christians will say homosexuality is an abomination, but so is eating prawns according to Leviticus 11:10. I don't see the Australian Family Association protesting outside seafood shops. Leviticus goes into a lot of detail regarding what is clean, what is unclean and what is an abomination unto the Lord. If we used Leviticus as a basis for our laws, there would be a lot of changes in our society. Fortunately, we are a bit more enlightened these days.

Imagine what it would be like if your partner of 20 years had a heart attack and you weren't allowed in the ambulance with them because you weren't "family".

So my message is short, say Yes, allow equality to all Australian adults and get back to running the country. As far as I can see, nobody will be any worse off but we will be a more inclusive society, isn't that what democracies are supposed to be?

Yours sincerely

Peter Butler

aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate_Committees?url=legcon_ctte%2Fmarriage_equality_2012%2Finfo.htm