



Dear Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee,

The University of Queensland Queer Collective (UQQC) is a support and advocacy for queer staff and students at UQ. We have had a rich history of support the removal of discrimination imposed within our legal system. We saw the decriminalisation of homosexuality in 1990 for Queensland, the passage of the Civil Partnerships Act recently and now we hope that in 2012 we will see the removal of discrimination within the Marriage Act. The Australian Constitution states that, "The Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the Commonwealth with respect to: ... (xxi) marriage." Due to this we understand that the only way to respect the right of the individual and repeal discrimination in this area is to have the federal parliament pass a bill. We are writing to you today to support the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2012 introduced by Mr Bandt MP and the Marriage Amendment Bill 2012 introduced by Mr Jones MP.

These bills support the removal of legal discrimination based upon gender identity and sexuality. This is vital to respecting rights of people and removing institutionalised hatred. This hatred has and is contributing to the continued high suicide amongst who identify as queer.

Yours

Sincerely,

Murray Manning