

Date of Submission: 2 April, 2012

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

Sent by email 4.49pm EST 2/4/2012 to legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Re: Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee inquiry into the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2010

Dear

Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras strongly supports that all people, regardless of sex, sexuality or gender identity, should have the opportunity to marry. Marriage is a civil institution, governed by secular laws, to which all members of our society should be entitled equitable access.

In 2011, Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras hosted an online petition in support of full Marriage Equality, which was intended to highlight:

1. The failure of Australian law to allow same-sex partners to marry
2. The harm this does to same-sex partners and their families by denying them legal equality and by perpetuating discrimination and prejudice
3. The harm this does to marriage by associating it with discrimination and prejudice
4. The fact that an increasing number of other countries allow marriage equality, and most Australians support it
5. The fact that the popularity of events like the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras shows Australia to be a nation which values equality and celebrates diversity

Please find attached the name and postcode of the **11534** respondents who signed the petition.

Postal and email addresses have been withheld for privacy, and can be provided on request.

Please note that we also intend to submit this petition to the inquiry being undertaken by the Social Policy and Legal Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives.

On behalf of the Board of Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras, thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this process, which we believe has the potential to create profoundly positive change for both the communities we represent and for our society as a whole.

Yours Faithfully,

Michael Rolik
Chief Executive Officer
Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras

