

**TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

This petition of two citizens of Australia

draws to the attention of the House:

- that we, two men, are married to each other, have been so for twenty-four years and will remain so forever
- Government refuses to register our marriage; that does not alter the fact of it
- homosexuality is a perfectly natural and healthy part of humanity; a fundamental and unalterable part of us;
- Government regards marriage, exclusively, as the traditional union between one man and one woman;
- traditionally, homosexual love has been persecuted, criminalised in Australia until at least 1997; it is unsurprising homosexuals were denied inclusion in marriage. That does not make it right.
- we honour marriage; to imply we are a threat to it, other families or children, is groundless
- our Christian beliefs celebrate our marriage; Australia has no official religion; the religious beliefs of one group oughtn't to be imposed on all by the law
- at the UN, Australia has recently been asked to cease this discrimination and respect our fundamental rights
- denying our marriage is a denial of our very humanity; it causes real disadvantage; in society it encourages continued homophobic bullying; it harms young people; it would demean and diminish Australia if it continued

We therefore ask the House to:

allow equal access to marriage for all couples (without forcing any persons or religious group to perform any marriage against their beliefs)