

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal & Constitutional Affairs Committee
Department of Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir,

Re Australian Marriage Equality

I write on behalf of a group called TasUnity who are whole hearted in their opinion that same sex couples should have the same rights and consideration as married heterosexual couples.

Significant moves have already been made recognising the needs of same sex couples.

We as a group want to offer our full support for the submission of “Australian Marriage Equality” to the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009.

In the past 15 years most of our contacts made through TasUnity are with same sex couples in long term, committed relationships between faithful partners, and with caring family members concerned for their fair integration into the community.

No-one wants to see a loved son or daughter treated unfairly by the laws of the land.

In my experience, the members of TasUnity are committed to serving and enhancing the life of their community, creating beauty in their homes and gardens, gifted musically and in the arts and being support people to members of their families and the wider community.

All are members of families. When family members accept their gay and lesbian cousins, the whole family benefits. Isolation and rejection and injustice are cruel and destructive.

The growing tolerance in the community towards homosexual people has freed many of them to be more open and available to use their gifts and skills. The justice system can help in this.

We look forward to positive changes being made that will honour all people and recognise the importance of long term faithful and respectful partnerships and the rights of all people in such partnerships, homosexual as well as heterosexual.

Yours faithfully

Pat McKenzie