

We have been in a relationship for almost 10 years. It is a loving, stable relationship, and in December last year, a baby boy was born into our family. We would like to be able to get married for several reasons.

Firstly, it would provide security for our family. At the moment, we are in a legal quagmire - we have some rights following the amendments to federal legislation last year for de facto couples, and we have some rights at state level, but not all, especially around parenting. We are never sure exactly what our legal rights and responsibilities are. Neither do the public servants, health workers, and other service providers we deal with on a day-to-day basis. True equality, supported by marriage, would give us the security we deserve.

Secondly, marriage discrimination justifies other discrimination and disrespect towards us. We want our relationship to be given the same respect as those of our married friends. In April 2006, while living in the UK, we had a civil partnership ceremony. We had the best day of our lives celebrating with friends and family, but it still did not feel good enough. Our life together is similar in nature to our friends with healthy marriages. Setting us apart from them gives people a legitimate reason to think there is something wrong with us or our family.

Thirdly, marriage inequality is illogical, unnecessary and out-dated. In the modern, developed world, marriage is about love. It's about making a commitment to another person to share a life together and nurture each other. It's not necessarily for financial or religious reasons. And so there's no reason that the commitment cannot be to a person of the same sex.

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