

To the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs  
Re: Marriage Equality Bill

Dear Senator,

I write to express my support for the Marriage Equality Bill currently before the Senate. The bill is a step forward towards full recognition of the equality of same sex relationships with heterosexual relationships and removes a scar left by the Howard Government on human rights in Australia.

I hold this view for a number of reasons.

Stable monogamous relationships between couples provide societies with significant benefits and should be recognised and encouraged, whether or not the members of the relationship are homosexual or heterosexual. Married couples provide each other with support when they are sick, care when they are infirm and improve the health and wellbeing of each other. The state should encourage couples to marry as a means of recognising the stability and benefits to society that that marriage brings.

The right to marry and found a family is a human right. It is sad that this right should only be extended to some stable monogamous relationships among adults but not others

People with strong religious convictions that marriage should only be between a man and a woman will not be required to marry a same sex partner with the passage of this bill, and will not be required to solemnise those relationships. Marriage is a civil institution, not a religious one.

Civil unions are a second rate solution that entrench the discrimination that same sex couples suffer. I also disagree that defacto status is sufficient – if it is a marriage in fact, why not a marriage at law?

The majority of Australians (based on opinion polling) seem to support marriage equality. Everyone I speak to supports this change – even my grandparents in their 80s.

I had the privilege of marrying my partner in California last year. It was the happiest day of my life. We love and care for each other very much, make each other happier and healthier and will, no doubt, over time, contribute more to society together than we do individually. We would have much preferred to marry here in Brisbane, and look forward to the day when everyone in a stable, monogamous adult relationship has that right.

Yours,