

27.8.2009

Dear Senate Committee on Marriage Equality Bill,

10 years ago, I married my partner. I'm not of a religious bent, but recognised that by formally marrying him, our relationship would be legally and socially recognised as being a serious, long-term (hopefully lifelong) commitment – much more so than being in a de-facto relationship.

In contrast, my lesbian friend and her partner have not been legally able to marry. Yet they love each other just the way myself and my husband do, and are equally committed to each other. They don't **need** a piece of paper to strengthen the commitment they have already made to each other – but surely they too should have the right to legally be married, and their union to be recognised socially and legally for what it is.

Please pass this Bill.

Julie Boxsell.