

Ben Ingamells

To the Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs

RE: Marriage Equality

I support the *Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009*.

I think it is important that we remove all discrimination from the *Marriage Act 1961* on the basis of sexuality and gender identity, to permit marriage regardless of sex, sexuality and gender identity.

I also believe it is important to reverse amendments made to the Marriage Act in 2004, which not only continue to discriminate on the basis of sexuality and gender identity, but also explicitly prohibit the recognition of same-sex marriages entered into under the laws of another country.

I believe that discrimination such as that espoused by the *Marriage Act 1961* must be overturned to ensure that freedom of sexuality and gender identity are recognised as fundamental human rights, and that acceptance and celebration of diversity are essential components for genuine social justice and equality to exist.

I do not believe that legal discrimination on the basis of sexuality and gender identity has any place in a modern secular society.

Yours sincerely

Ben Ingamells