

To the Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs

My submission is in support of removing discrimination from the Marriage Act 1961 on the basis of sexuality and gender identity and to permit marriage regardless of sex, sexuality and gender identity.

I haven't always been a strong proponent of same-sex marriage, thinking that if some people in the community were going to be offended by same-sex marriage, then perhaps it wasn't an important battle. After all, a marriage licence is merely a piece of paper that doesn't affect the relationship of two people who love each other, or their standing in the community.

However, I have come to realise that of course marriage is important to most of us. Why is it important to me? It is a celebration of love, and a public commitment to be held accountable for something very precious and important. It is part of our culture, and of course, it should be a basic entitlement for each loving, committed couple.

This is a battle worth fighting, and I for one am happy to put my name down in support of removing discrimination from the marriage bill.