

Dana Fay McMullen

SENATE INQUIRY INTO THE MARRIAGE EQUALITY AMENDMENT BILL

I write to you as someone who was brought up by two lesbian mothers. I wish to counter the claims by many opponents of same-sex marriage that children brought up by same-sex parents suffer.

Although same-sex parents are becoming more commonplace in society, when I was growing up it was almost unheard of. The greatest harm that children of same-sex couples face is discrimination, and feeling as though they should be ashamed of their parents. The Australian Governments continued stand against same-sex marriage only furthers these discriminatory attitudes. Same-sex parents are equally as loving and care for their children just as well as heterosexual parents.

The idea that a child needs to be brought up by a mother and a father is not legally upheld in any other area of our law. Single parents are an accepted part of our society, and IVF access is open to single parents, and homosexuals (as long as they are single). It is therefore becoming increasingly clear that the idea that a child should be brought up by a mother and father is simply being used as an excuse to continue discriminatory attitudes towards homosexuals and their children.

I therefore implore the Committee not to accept submissions that claim children of homosexual parents will suffer. I was brought up in an incredibly loving environment, as were the other children of same-sex couples I knew in my childhood. The Governments stance on same-sex marriage implies these families and parents aren't as loving and supportive as others. This is fundamentally incorrect, discriminatory and embarrassing for our country.

It is time the Australia government lifted its discriminatory stance on homosexual marriage. Granting civil unions is still not granting equality- maintaining any discrimination based on sexuality is unacceptable in today's society.

It is time discrimination against families such as my own ended- its time homosexuals and their families stopped having to feel ashamed, and it is time discriminatory groups against homosexual marriage stopped using the children of same-sex parents as a tool for their own argument. It is their attitude that does damage to these children.

Regards,

Dana McMullen.