

28/08/2009

This is my submission to your inquiry into marriage equality.

I am in a same sex relationship. My partner [redacted] and I have been in this relationship for 16 wonderful years, and we have no intention of ending it until death do us part. We have twin daughters from this relationship, hoped for, planned (not the twin part – that was a bonus!), and totally cherished. Their names are [redacted] and [redacted] – named after their doting grandmothers – my mother and [redacted] mother.

We are a wonderful partnership – We look after each other, we care for each other and each others families, we support each other in our careers. Most importantly we bring out the best in each other. How could marriage enhance this? How could marriage make this stronger?

The truth is, it wouldn't. We will remain a devoted loving couple, with two wonderful daughters and a terrific extended family. That won't change. We will continue to bring up our daughters, and do our best to give them a life full of love, learning, and adventure. We will do our best to guide them into the world, to help them become strong and wonderful women, with opportunity, compassion, freedom, and a chance to build their own families with someone they love. None of this will change if their parents are unable to marry by law.

However, [redacted] and I will not be equal with our fellow Australians who are allowed to marry if they choose. And we deserve to be treated equally. We are caring, constructive, positive members of our community and our country. I do not believe there is any good reason put forward by any person that should mean we are denied this equality.

I believe marriage is about love, mutual respect and commitment between two people. Our relationship has these qualities in spades. Allow us to marry if we choose. Allow us to celebrate our love for each other, with our families, with our friends, with our daughters - as equals - with our fellow Australians.

I fully endorse the submission made by Australian Marriage Equality in favour of the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009.

Yours Sincerely

Jackie Smith