

RE: Submission For same sex marriage.

Why is Australia so hesitant to allow a significant proportion of our community to partake in an institution that is available to the rest of the community. This issue affects more than just same sex couples. Every person in our community is connected to someone who is gay, whether it be a family member, friend neighbour, work colleague, doctor, lawyer politician etc. So it is not as small an issue as many may think.

In these troubled times we should be promoting harmony and acceptance to fellow man. Instead Australia continues to further promote the idea that same sex couples are somehow lesser human beings and should not be accepted.

I am in a committed and loving long term relationship with a same sex partner and have entered into a civil union in New Zealand(not quite the same as marriage). In my relationship I feel as though I am married regardless of where I reside, however I am not able to enjoy many of the things that married couples in Australia take for granted. The freedom to be who you are, and share your love where your heart takes you without fear.

The main concern for me is that by not allowing same sex couples to be married we continue to promote the idea that gay people are lesser than the rest of the community. It helps to retain the hatred and bigotry that one section of the community is exposed to, making people reluctant to be the people that they can be and should be.

All human beings should be free to love who they want to without fear of reprisal. Its time for everyone to be able to come out of the closet, safely and with acceptance.