

23 July 2009

Committee Secretary Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
PO Box 6100 Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600 Australia

Dear Committee Secretary,

This is my submission to your inquiry into marriage equality, in favour of the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009.

I, like many Australians, find the government's current position on marriage to be discriminatory and without morally justifiable reason and I am ashamed by it.

Furthermore, it is preventing me from entering into marriage in the future because I will not lie in a vow I intend to keep for the rest of my life. I am a heterosexual female in a committed relationship (although this should be of little consequence). My partner would like to celebrate our relationship and receive the recognition and security which marriage would offer us and any children we may have in the future. I cannot, however, bring myself to issue any words to the effect of "I believe marriage is to be entered into only by a man and a woman". It is not my right, nor the right of the Australian government, to judge who is and is not committed to their partner.

I look forward to your passing of this Bill as evidence that our country remains a secular, open and democratic nation in full support of human rights and the celebration of love and commitment that is, ideally, marriage.

Sincerely,