

I would like to express my opinion on the Marriage Equality Senate Inquiry.

I am a 28 year old out, gay and proud man who has been with my partner for 5 years now. We are a couple just like every other loving couple within our family, community, state and nation.

I believe that there is no valid reason why we shouldn't be able to be a married couple. Aside from paying the same amount of taxes, it's more than that- we are no different from any other couple. We are being treated by second class citizens within the current laws.

It makes no sense to me at all why we aren't allowed to marry. There are many acts that are illegal because they harm other people. Murder, stealing, assault, the list goes on. By us marrying we will not harm anyone else. Our love for each other harms no body yet it is still illegal. There is no logical reason for this.

Our love and commitment for each other deserves the same recognition as heterosexual couples living in Australia.

The equality that has occurred within Marriage Acts around the world has had no negative impact on those countries. In fact the divorce rates in same sex marriages have been far less than the heterosexual divorce rates.

It is upsetting that the government is happy to recognise same sex couples when it suits them eg Centrelink reforms where same sex couples had no benefit from declaring their relationship. If the government is happy to have us declare our relationship for certain things then they are admitting that we should be equal. But there is no equality for same sex couples within the current Marriage Act.

I am finding it difficult to express my opinion on this topic because it is so close to my heart and I feel upset that there even has to be an inquiry into Marriage Equality. Equality is equality and it's as simple as that.

Kind Regards

Adam Todd