

Submission to the Senate of the Parliament of Australia Inquiry into the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009

On 20 October 2009 two very dear friends are getting married. Both in their 30s, they have known each other for ten years and during that time they have developed a deep commitment to each other in a bond that espouses respect for family, total personal integrity, an unshakeable sense of social justice and, above all, deep and absolute love for each other. They are two people with a great love of life and a delight in the everyday as well as the extraordinary. They are loved, cherished and valued by their family and friends, who are absolutely delighted they are getting married.

However because they are a same sex couple they cannot get married in Australia. On 20 October 2009 my two very dear friends are getting married in Toronto, Canada, with only four of us to witness the event. On their return to Australia my friends will continue their lives as before, with their relationship not legally recognised by the country they both contribute so much to in so many ways, discriminated against because of their sexual orientation. This is just wrong.

I strongly urge the Senate of the Parliament of Australia to support Senator Hanson-Young's amendment bill and to enable these two dear people, and all other couples who love and are committed to each other, regardless of their gender, to marry and have their marriage legally recognised in Australia.

Katherine Brandon