

The debate over same sex marriage often gets “bogged down” and side tracked into other areas of debate. This can include the arguments regarding different traditions of marriage in religion or fear of change.

There are many benefits to allowing same sex marriage in Australia, including the minimisation of homophobia, bullying amongst young homosexuals and contributing to greater equality for all individuals. Society will be one step further to seeing homosexuals as “normal” people.

My aim is to not to get bogged down in all the debates, or else I would be here for a very long time with a completed novel. Rather, I will keep it very much to the point of common sense.

Marriage is the union between two people... between two people.

Marriage itself can signify different meanings to a couple and to an individual – to some it is symbolic of growing up or the beginning of a family. To others, it may mean safety or knowing that there will be someone there to go home to at night. It may mean a promise of no more break ups or going out on Saturday nights searching for “the one”. Marriage may be that chance to wear a gorgeous white gown and have hair, makeup and photographs taken of you and partner. It may be permission sourced from God before giving yourself to each other. For some, marriage may be a visa into a country. It may mean love to some or a duty to another.

The meaning of marriage is for the individual to decide. Every person has the right to have their own personal beliefs on what marriage means to them and why they would get married – without being interrupted or rejected.

No one has the right to say whether two people can or cannot get married – just as no one has the right to say who can get married to whom.

The issue is not marriage itself, but the two individuals who may have that union. It is as simple as equality – everyone deserves to be equal. And for homosexual couples to be equal to heterosexual couples, marriage should be allowed. By marriage not being allowed, the government is telling homosexual couples that they are not worthy of and do not deserve the same rights as heterosexual couples.

This is not equality.