

To whom it may concern,

I would like to submit my support for the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009. I am a 32 year old male, preparing to marry my partner in November. We have been together for over seven years, and we both realised we wanted to spend the rest of our lives together.

It shames me that this country will not recognise the same rights when it comes to two adults who happen to be of the same sex, and I find it offensive that as part of the wedding ceremony the celebrant is required to inform us that marriage is between a man and a woman. Australian society is quite progressive in many ways, but marriage is one area where we fail to compare with many other cultures.

We have several friends who will be forced to travel overseas to be married legally, and are planning to do so because these rights mean a great deal to them. Even then, this union is not recognised here. It is unfair to treat people as second-class citizens purely on the basis of sexual preference.

Please correct this oversight, and grant same-sex couples the rights that they should already have available to them.

Regards,

Matthew Jacques