

Submission to the Inquiry into the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009
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As a university student, I am surrounded by a great diversity of people. Since attending the University of Adelaide, I have made many new friends. Some of these friends are from Australia, some are from Asia, some are from Europe and some are from America. I have made friends who are bi- or poly-racial. I have made friends with Indigenous Australians. I have made friends with young students and old students. I have made friends with straight students, bisexual students, gay students and lesbian students.

As I learn new things at university, my mind is opened to not only new concepts – but new ways of thinking: new paradigms in which to view the world. However, this learning is not limited to my lectures and tutorials. Much of what I have discovered about the world through university has been via the other students I have met. I have learned from all of their differences. I have begun to realise the extraordinarily eclectic nature of the human race. However, I have also come to understand our many similarities. I feel there is a certain fibre from which we are all woven: we all share so many emotions – ambition, excitement, fear, hesitance, pride... and of course love.

The Marriage Act of 1961 is outdated. It is based upon antiquated ideals from Christian religions – chiefly the chapter of the Old Testament of the Bible, Leviticus. However, this chapter also prohibits interracial marriage and a woman's rights to ownership of her marital chattels – and yet these are both now permitted. Yet same-sex marriage is still illegal. Why is it that our government struggles so to let go of this particular archaic vestige of Christianity?

I submit that, rather than watching (from the sidelines) small and less-developed countries like Albania begin to eradicate homophobic discrimination, Australia should join in. Love knows no gender. Our current ban on same-sex marriage is blatant constitutional discrimination. We need to refer to some basic principles of public law. We need to apply legal philosopher Friedrich August von Hayek's civil libertarian ideals that the law should be applied equally and that it should never single out specific persons. I thus say that Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young's bill for equal marriage rights for same-sex couples be considered and passed.