

I am a 38 Year old man and have been in a relationship with my partner for four years. I am a full time NSW public servant and am currently studying part time for my Masters degree. My partner is employed full time also. We love each other deeply.

My mother separated from my father when I was a child as a result of her coming to terms with being a lesbian. She has worked hard all her life as a public servant and university lecturer and is also educated to postgraduate level. My mother has been with her partner for over fifteen years and they love each other dearly

I also have a gay brother. He and his partner are both degree qualified professionals who work hard. They have been in a loving and committed relationship for over twelve years.

I also have two heterosexual sisters who I love dearly and they love me. My Dad and Stepnum also love and support me. I am blessed to have such a family.

My Mum has faced, with quiet strength, acceptance and dignity, the discrimination that Australian society and government has imposed on her since 1972 when she came to terms with her preference to love other women.

My family are close and supportive and loving. The day one of my sisters married her husband was a beautiful day that we all remember and cherish and we all look forward to one day being able to gather and celebrate each and every one of us marrying our life partners.

One day future generations will look back with disbelief and a sense of national embarrassment, that Australian Governments saw it as appropriate to not allow two people who love each other deeply, to marry.

When I gather with my family and friends, gay and straight, all I see is equal love, respect and commitment. We all just get on with living our lives, working hard, paying bills and taxes and doing our bit for Australia. However, amongst all of us, there is a sense of sadness that the law of this beautiful country deems some of our relationships to be less than others.