

Dear Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee,

This is my submission to your inquiry into marriage equality.

In 2008 I attended a Commitment Ceremony between two gay friends of mine, who had just returned from New Zealand where they'd been married in a Civil Union.

The fact that their New Zealand Civil Union is not recognised in Australia under Commonwealth Law is highly discriminatory, and I believe the Senate Inquiry should make recommendations that all overseas Civil Unions be recognised by passing the 2009 Marriage Equality Bill as proposed.

I also believe that when ones ruling government discriminates against a group of people in its care (in this case people of the same sex who happen to love each other) , that leaves open the way for others to do the same.

When a person has broken no law, pays their taxes and contributes positively to their community, they deserve to be treated with the same respect afforded to everyone else.

Let's learn from little New Zealand.

It's actually embarrassing in this the 21st century to live in a country with such backward thinking, fortunately the vast majority of people in a recent pole support ending this discrimination.

CATCH UP!

Richard Williams