

Dear Honourable Members

I wish to convey my support for the Bill which is subject to this inquiry and which amends the Marriage Act 1961 to: remove all discriminatory references based on sexuality and gender identity; and allow marriage regardless of sex, sexuality and gender equality.

As a gay Australian, I would encourage consideration of the principles of these amendments in the sense that it seeks to remove discrimination that clearly creates a second class of citizens.

I cannot convey strongly enough the sense of dismay I feel when I attend weddings and hear the proclamation that in Australia, marriage as defined by law is the union between a man and a woman. That I am forced to register with my State Government, forbidden to have a celebrant or conduct any type of ceremony that apes an actual wedding is demeaning.

I feel that marriage is sacred and a serious commitment that no one would choose to undermine – and that gay Australians deserve the right to have their relationships acknowledged and be afforded the same protection and legal status as their heterosexual country men.

You cannot be ‘half equal’ or mostly equal. And discrimination cannot go unchallenged.

Yours sincerely

Angela Elson