

14 / 08 / 09

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.

My reasons for this are as follows:

1. As an Australian citizen, it is important to me that our country is one that celebrates individual differences.
2. In a world that is often starved of love, I think it imperative for the overall happiness of humankind, that we create an environment where love can flourish as much as possible. The many thousands of happy, healthy gay unions that will take place when civil unions are recognized will add substantially to the overall happiness of humankind.
3. I love my friends and I think it is dreadful that they had to go to another country in order for their love to be recognized. It makes me ashamed to be an Australian.
4. I believe politics and religion should be kept separate. Why should a Christian belief system have such an impact on innocent people who do not share that belief system? We are a multicultural society. Let us celebrate that.

Thank you for your consideration of my views