

Dear Presiding Senators,

Like the hair care ads, “It may not happen overnight, but it will happen”

It still strikes me as bizarre that in contemporary Australia, it is unlawful for two unrelated adult people, who love each other, to marry. There really is no justification or rationale behind denying a group of our community this fundamental right. The unenlightened argument that marriage is only between a man and a woman is painted with the same brush of hatred that was used when interracial marriage was unlawful. The notion that legally recognising marriages of two people of the same sex will lead to some kind of community break down is ridiculous. Canada, Spain, the Netherlands, Norway, Belgium amongst other regions of the world that recognise same-sex marriages are not civilizations under threat. Their people are not dying out. Their countries are not falling apart. Their communities are intact. Therefore the unfounded fear that same-sex marriage will undermine our society is simply that – unfounded fear. Their marriage rates are high, in some countries higher than Australia, their birth rates similarly high (and in some cases higher)

The idea that homosexuality is a choice is stupid in the extreme. Who would choose to be a part of a discriminated and persecuted group? Who would choose to live a life where one faces being ostracised from their own family? Who would choose to be called a faggot, poofster, fairy, nancy boy, homo? No one. Anyone who promotes such a furphy is themselves stupid.

I really have difficulty comprehending when politicians, amongst others, advocate for the protection of our “freedom” in Australia, that we are blessed to have “choice” – this does not apply at present to all of our community. It is not acceptable from both an ethical and legal standpoint; discrimination should not be condoned nor allowed. Many Australians would be able to remember a time when the Indigenous Australians were not even counted as people. That was a disgrace. Our children will look back with disgust at knowing that same-sex marriage was not allowed in Australia. Already now, as a young Australian of 24, many of my fellow young Australians are simply shocked and surprised when they discover gay Australians cannot legally marry. You would all have seen surveys show a majority of all Australians support same-sex marriage, with a huge majority of young Australians in support.

To finish, I remember when I was 17 discussing with my mother about homosexuality. I was upset at the lack of social change in Australia regarding the acceptance and embracement of our homosexual Australians. She said “social change is inevitable. It will happen. Conservatives cannot stop social change. They never have been able to, and they never will. Who ever would have thought 60 years ago, that women would receive equal pay, that a woman could ever be Governor General, that disabled people would no longer be called retards, that aboriginals would be able to vote, that Asians would be able to move to Australia?”. I take comfort knowing that if the ALP and Coalition refuse to endorse to amend the Marriage Act (Cth) to allow same-sex marriage in 2009, it will happen despite that setback. And we will look back and laugh at how ignorant some people were, and how weak some politicians were for not standing up for human rights. We used to laugh in high school reading ALP politicians speak in the early 20th century about the Asian peril of workers flooding into Australia.

This will happen again when future school students read about Australian history. It is

just a matter of when.

So senators, be part of making a change for good. Be part of history of Australia protecting the human rights of its people. Endorse changing the Marriage Act (Cth), and vote for acceptance and our common humanity you share with Australians.