

## **Submission to the Senate Inquiry into the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009 (Cth)**

Dear Senator Crossin,

I would like to make a submission to the Inquiry into the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009 in **support of marriage equality for same-sex couples**.

The Marriage Act 1961 (Cth) is a civil law which applies to all Australians. I believe the Marriage Act should be amended to ensure same-sex couples have equal rights to marry in Australia. I believe section 88EA of the Marriage Act should be repealed so that overseas same-sex marriages are recognised in Australia in the same way as opposite-sex marriages between consenting adults.

It is time to ensure that discrimination against same-sex couples in the Marriage Act is removed. Although I am not attracted to people of the same-sex I do believe in equal rights in relation to marriage. My first marriage ended because my then wife revealed to me that she was a lesbian. That revelation, of course, made our marriage untenable. However, I made no distinction between her having an affair with a man or a woman, but obviously if she preferred to be with a woman then that was that. My story is relevant because I saw firsthand the pain that she experienced being attracted to someone of the same sex in a society that didn't accept it. All I ever wanted was for her to be happy and I would have thought that in a great country like Australia that people in her position SHOULD be given the right to marry whomever they wish. Surely, if a heterosexual man who has had my experience accepts same-sex relationships and **also accepts** that same-sex couples should be able to marry then why is it so hard for others to accept it? I have every reason to despise same-sex couples but I don't. If two people are in a loving relationship and want to marry they should be allowed. I don't understand what the problem is. No matter how I look at it, as social beings we want to be loved and marriage is the ultimate display of that love.

Please consider this decision carefully, I for one want to live in a country where EVERYONE is treated equally in the eyes of the law.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Adam M Butler