

**SUBMISSION TO
THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
INQUIRY INTO THE MARRIAGE EQUALITY AMENDMENT BILL 2009**

By Annette Naylor

I am a 50 year old woman with two beautiful daughters whom I love with all of my heart.

Both of my daughters are in relationships and are engaged to their respective partners. As a mother, I am very fortunate that they have each found such wonderful partners, who love and respect them.

My eldest daughter is 28 years old and an IT professional working for the
She bought her first house with her fiancé the year before last and they have been renovating it in their spare time, with plans to travel next year.

My youngest daughter is 25 years old and has recently returned from a 6 month overseas holiday with her fiancé. She has a degree in Social Science, majoring in Psychology, and is currently looking to return to the workforce now that they are home.

I have always loved and treated both of my daughters equally. They have both grown into beautiful, strong and intelligent women, whom I am extremely proud of.

However, the eyes of the law currently do not see one of my daughters as equal. Despite the fact that I attended each of my daughter's engagements last year, one of my daughters cannot get married.

The reason why my eldest daughter cannot get married is because she is gay and in a same-sex relationship.

She is no different and no less of a person than my youngest daughter. Her sexuality does not define who she is and when I look at her, I do not see "my gay daughter"... I see my daughter.

Her relationship is no less loving, no less committed and no less equal to her sister's relationship.

How will allowing my eldest daughter to marry undermine my youngest daughters' marriage?

As a mother, I want to attend *both* of my daughter's weddings.

I want to be there for *both* of my girls during one of the most significant moments in their lives.

I want them *both* to be treated as equals in the eyes of the law, just as they should be.

I believe in equality for all and I believe that all same-sex couples should have the right to marry.