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The Director
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Madam/Sir



Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009

I write to comment on this proposed legislation, which I understand seeks to remove discrimination from the *Marriage Act 1961* on the basis of sexuality and gender identity, and to allow marriage regardless of sex, sexuality and gender identity.

As a long time inner Sydney representative, I know that many constituents wish to have same sex relationships recognised and treated equally. Many inner city citizens are treated less favourably under current law, and I have consistently argued for fair and equal treatment for all citizens, irrespective of gender and sexuality.

The Australian Parliament previously voted to exclude some Australians from the right to marry the person of their choice and to refuse to recognise same sex marriages solemnised overseas. This position is inconsistent with the views of the Australian community, and undermines steps toward equal treatment of same sex relationships.

As a society we should value and support loving relationships. All adult couples making a life commitment to each other should be able to marry if they wish, and I share the view that it is not fair to deny anyone that right because of their gender or sexuality.

The City of Sydney shows its support for all couples through its Relationships Declaration Program. Couples can use this to record their relationships and to declare they are committed to a shared life together. The City was the first Australian Council to endorse the Declaration of Montreal, which aims to put GLBT rights on the United Nations agenda. The Declaration states: "As a matter of simple equality, same-sex couples are entitled to the full range of relationship options available to different-sex couples, including marriage for those who choose it."

I urge the Inquiry to recommend fair and equal treatment for same sex couples who wish to marry.

Yours sincerely

Clover Moore
Member for Sydney