

First name: Leah

Last name: Brown

Do you wish for your name to be withheld from publication?: No

Do you wish for this submission to be confidential?: No

Your submission:

I write to express my support for the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009. At present our laws discriminate against homosexual couples, and it's simply not fair. As a young lesbian woman, coming to terms with my sexuality was a huge barrier for me in life. Like many other homosexual people it is hard enough accepting yourself without having laws disapproving of you too. In today's world, as we move beyond discrimination and vilification and into a more just society, it does not make sense to be behind the times as a country. Our nation state has provided many global benchmarks (such as the first law regulating minimum wages) that have demonstrated our ability to accept change and provide equal opportunity for all, yet we are well behind with this one. Church groups may kick up a stink because it goes against their religion, but in today's society almost every action we do as human beings goes against someones religion. We are a so called multicultural country, accepting and welcoming others, and allowing them to have their own values and beliefs and religions without being discriminated against. Yet our simple wish for the love we have to be honored, and legally recognised, is consistently denied. We are not asking the protesters to partake in a homosexual wedding, we are not pushing it onto them, or into their faces. We would merely like marriage to be a real option for us should we decide its a step of commitment we want to take. We just want to be treated equally. We just want choice!