

First name: Eleanor

Last name: Madden

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.

I am a straight 24 year old female from Melbourne who believes same sex marriage is fundamentally an equality issue. I, like most of the straight Australian community, particularly those of my generation, do not believe that it is any of my, or the government's, business, how people choose to express, formalise and celebrate their private personal relationships. I believe the ban on same sex marriage simulataneously creates and condones prejudice, ignorance and fear of homosexuality. Like the apology to Indigenous Australia in 2008, I believe the government must take a leadership role in removing the ban on gay marriage, to make clear that kneejerk, ill-informed and lazy attitudes of prejudice towards homosexual Australia are no longer tolerated.

This is not about religious marriage, and it is not about pushing marriage onto couples that do not desire it. It is about acknowledging and emphasising that love is pure, personal and private to each couple, gay or straight, and as such, each couple should have the same choices under the law as to how to express that love.

My basic belief is that same sex marriage does not, in truth, pose a threat to straight Australians. The minority for whom gay marriage is confronting do not deserve legal reinforcement of their views. The law and religion have long been emphasised as separate entities, and religious standpoints on gay marriage have no place in the Australian legal system, particularly where they are not the majority view.

I think the government has erroneously interpreted the silence of straight Australia on this issue as approval of the ban on gay marriage, when, in reality, the silence of straight Australia is purely due to their sincere lack of concern about how and why gay couples choose to express or formalise their relationships, as their relationships are their business.

I wholeheartedly express my support for the removal of ban on gay marriage and call on the government to reflect my and the majority of Australia's views that separate is not equal.

Yours sincerely,
Eleanor Madden.