

First name: James

Last name: Troi

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.

Having lived with my partner in a committed relationship for the past twelve and a half years with a desire to be wed for at least the last 8 of those I implore my government to pass this amendment and allow Same-sex marriage. Support ALL the people you are supposed to be working for.

In the past twelve years I've watched my sister become engaged and split. While my brother became engaged, was married, divorced, became engaged again (to another woman) and plans his second marriage, to take place January 2010.

We are real people, living real lives within the community. We are active in our communities. We support and rejoice with our kin when they wed their opposite-sex partners, an action they are able to do without question and without wondering if it will be legal, or upheld in another state of Australia.

Marriage can't be left to the states if the Commonwealth can have an over-riding act which dictates a marriage is between a man and a woman.

Not only do you continue to discriminate against me and my partner you cast a shadow over our government and our society. Willing to put Australia out there as a backwater ruled by fear and outdated religious ideas.

It is likely you all know homosexual people, look at them and tell them in person that you believe their life is worth less than your own. That their rights don't matter and that you could care less to see them celebrate that love as part of a wedding.

You have to stop holding to the belief that marriage is a religious institution, it existed before organised religion and was taken up by the churches when it suited them to do so.

Our government has laws for marriage and therefore it is an institution of the state, a right to be bestowed on all and to be protected by the state.

Give me my right to marriage because I deserve it and am entitled as a human being.