

Dear Senator Crossin,

I would like to make a submission to the Inquiry into the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009 in support of marriage equality for same-sex couples.

The *Marriage Act 1961* (Cth) is a civil law which applies to all Australians. I believe the *Marriage Act* should be amended to ensure same-sex couples have equal rights to marry in Australia. I believe section 88EA of the *Marriage Act* should be repealed so that overseas same-sex marriages are recognised in Australia in the same way as opposite-sex marriages between consenting adults.

We don't discriminate against interracial marriages, we don't deny people the right to marry based on their religious views, so why should we deny a same-sex couple the right to the same recognition and legal privileges enjoyed by all others in Australia. After all, if you think it's fair that same-sex couples be treated like any other couple for centrelink purposes, then they should be treated like any other couple for all legal/tax/beneficiary purposes.

It is time to ensure that discrimination against same-sex couples in the *Marriage Act* is removed.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Ball