

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 I believe section 88EA of the *Marriage Act* should be repealed so that overseas same-sex marriages are recognised in Australia in the same way as opposite-sex marriages between consenting adults.

My same-sex partner and I have been living in a loving relationship for 30 years. Our relationship is not unique, same-sex couples have existed since the beginning of human evolution. Discriminatory laws against same-sex couples have outlived their "USE BY DATE" in the 21st century. Our campaign for equality will continue, our rights for recognising will not be denied.

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

Yours sincerely,

Barry J Power