

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 I believe section 88EA of the *Marriage Act* should be repealed so that overseas same-sex marriages are recognised in Australia in the same way as opposite-sex marriages between consenting adults.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 partner and I have four sons. Two are married and one is engaged. These events have been great sources of family joy and togetherness. All four of my sons have responsible jobs, value family life and are loved and supported by family and friends. In this respect they are equal. I would like my youngest son, who happens to be gay, to share the same legal rights as the other three. I look forward proudly to the day when I, and our family and friends, may share his joy at his wedding.

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

Yours sincerely,

Dr Aerinn Morgan