

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 I believe section 88EA of the *Marriage Act* should be repealed so that overseas same-sex marriages are recognised in Australia in the same way as opposite-sex marriages between consenting adults.

I didn't choose to be gay, it is simply who I am. I didn't choose to fall in love with my girlfriend. It simply happened that way. I'm sure you wouldn't choose to actively discriminate against me, but by not amending the *Marriage Act* to ensure that I have the right to marry in Australia, that is exactly what you are doing. Surely you must realise that I am the same as you? We love the same, we hurt the same, we dream the same. The only difference is that I don't discriminate you based on who you love.

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

Yours sincerely,

Alexandra Long