

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 I believe section 88EA of the *Marriage Act* should be repealed so that overseas same-sex marriages are recognised in Australia in the same way as opposite-sex marriages between consenting adults.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 met my partner in Sydney (he had been born and raised in Switzerland) in 2001. After 18 months of living in limbo, I sponsored him to come to Australia. It was a tumultuous time for him, having to sift through red tape, however he received his temporary PR, full PR and has now become an Australian. The thought that we can go through this entire process, remain committed to each other for close to 9 years and still not be allowed to marry is not only unfair, but simply without any credible explanation. Please continue the positive work done with the 2008 legal changes and eliminate discrimination on all levels, both moral and legal. Let us have the right to marry. Thank you.

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

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Xydis