

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 I believe section 88EA of the *Marriage Act* should be repealed so that overseas same-sex marriages are recognised in Australia in the same way as opposite-sex marriages between consenting adults.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 am a son, and I have three siblings - one brother and two sisters, one older and two younger. We were all born to the same two parents, in the same country (this one), in the same hospital. We grew up in the same house, went to the same schools, and we still all share the same last name. The government has extended to us all the same rights in terms of education, medical provisions, and freedom of speech... we all pay tax (albeit reluctantly), we all vote (again sometimes reluctantly), and we all live by and obey the same laws and social responsibilities. As a matter of choice and freedom, we differ in beliefs (including religious) and opinions, we work and contribute to different sectors of society, and we vote for different political parties and politicians. I believe that if the government can acknowledge that as a citizen of this country (and a member of the human race) my siblings and I are all entitled to protection from discrimination due to our opinions and/or beliefs, they MUST use their own logic when observing legislation for marriage. It does not matter whether homosexuality is a choice, a belief, a burden, or a just another example of diversity within the human race. It is present, and it is an important and unchangeable fact of life for a number of members of society. Currently three of my parents children can marry, one cannot. My hope is that equality can be achieved for my family, and many many families across our country. Not a drop more, just equality.

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

Yours sincerely,

David Boyce