

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to support the Bill that has recently been put forward to parliament with reference to same sex relationships.

I grew up in Tasmania, a place with incredibly progressive laws for same sex couples, but with a community that is very backward and un-accepting of such a lifestyle. It was a horrible place to grow up knowing that from a very young age that you were different. For years and years I had to pretend to be something that I wasn't. I tried hid my true feeling, and dated girls, and pretended to play it straight. Sydney is a city that embraces all kinds of culture. It is a place where anything goes, and people can truly freely express themselves.

It saddens me to see that such a strong gay community here in Sydney is denied the rights of a regular heterosexual couple, when a place like Hobart with a disturbing community tolerance has allowed their same sex couples such a wonderful set of rights. It makes no sense! Had I grown up in Sydney I would have been much more comfortable to come out early and express myself for who I truly am.

Most gay couples that are truly committed to starting a family take many more counselling sessions, educate themselves on what they are getting themselves into, and invest a great deal of their time and money to ensure that their child has every opportunity to succeed in life, with an open and tolerant mind. This is something that the whole country needs to adopt to continue to move forward as a nation. There are so many cases of child neglect, abortion, and unplanned teen pregnancies that makes me sick to the core of how the poor child is going to be raised and the limited opportunities that it will be exposed to for the future.

We are one of the most culturally diverse nations in the world, we allow people from all walks of life come here and start a life. There is no reason why we as a community should be penalised by our laws because of a lifestyle that we have no choice but to accept. We do not choose a gay life, it chooses us. We are born that way. You cannot condition yourself to be attracted to something your not.

I like to think that one day I too will find a life partner, and I would like the country that I support with taxes, voting, and commitment to my employment to support me in return. In conclusion I believe that passing this new bill will in fact make a very positive impact on the future of Australia as a country, gay, straight – and all those yet to decide.

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts.

Warm regards,

Brodie West.