



Nick McKim MP
Greens Leader
Member for Franklin
Tasmanian Greens

Tuesday, 3rd April, 2012

The Inquiry into the *Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2010*
Secretary, Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600

Submission On The *Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2010*

Dear Committee Secretary,

On behalf of the party room of the Tasmanian Greens Members of Parliament, I would like to state, that we strongly support the *Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2010*.

The Tasmanian Greens have a proud history of supporting equal rights, social justice, and an end to legislated discrimination.

In regards to marriage equality, as recently as September last year, I tabled a motion on behalf of the Tasmanian Greens that called on the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia to amend the *Commonwealth Marriage Act 1961* to provide for marriage equality. This historically became the first motion in favour of marriage equality to be supported by an Australian House of Parliament and the first to be supported by a State Labor Government.

Such is our commitment to marriage equality, the Tasmanian Greens have further pledged to table our own state based reforms, if the Commonwealth Parliament fails to deliver on this long overdue reform.

Community opinion polls show clear, majority support for marriage equality. It is crucial that politicians heed these figures and legislate to put an end to discrimination once and for all.

How can we expect society to function respectfully, when the laws that govern it are unjust and marginalise an (innocent) segment of people!?

Attached is a copy of the Hansard of the debate that ensued after the tabling of our motion supporting Federal reform of the *Marriage Act 1961*, which I formally submit on behalf of the Tasmanian Greens to the Senate Inquiry into the *Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2010*.

The Greens look forward to the day when all Australians can expect equality from our laws.

Warm regards,

Nick McKim MP
Tasmanian Greens Leader

Enclosed: Tasmanian House of Assembly Hansard [21/09/2011]

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