



HUMANIST SOCIETY OF VICTORIA Inc.

(Reg. No. A0020272M)

Affiliated with the Council of Australian Humanist Societies (CAHS)
and the International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU), London, UK

Melbourne, VIC 3001
<http://vic.humanist.org.au>

11 March 2012

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
PO Box 6100, Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600, Australia.
legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Secretary,

Submission in support of the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2010

The Humanist Society of Victoria (HSV) is a secular organisation whose members foster an ethical, reasoned and responsible approach to life. It supports human rights, democratic processes and a just and inclusive governance. HSV also engages in educational, counselling and charitable activities. We congratulate the Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee on their commitment to this inquiry.

Humanists regard equality and universality as essential human rights and we support same-sex marriage.

We call upon your government to legalise marriage for same-sex couples. We consider the current ban to be a violation of the equality and universality of human rights as enshrined within the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to which Australia has been a signatory for over sixty years.

It is incumbent upon your government to ensure that all people are treated equally and fairly under the law. This is not currently the case.

We ask the government to support this Bill and to ensure that marriage equality becomes available for all Australians, regardless of sex, sexuality or gender identity.

It is also incumbent upon Members of Parliament to represent the views of their constituents, and we understand that recent opinion polls indicate that the majority of Australian voters agree with the principle of same-sex marriage. In our pluralist, multicultural society, your government has a moral and legal obligation to move beyond archaic and discriminatory traditions which no longer reflect our more enlightened, modern times.

Yours faithfully,

Stephen Stuart
President of HSV