

SUBMISSION ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

2nd April 2012

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I write as a wife and mother of four adult children, one of whom is homosexual; but also as an Elder of the Uniting Church in Ascot Vale, and as a concerned citizen.

Marriage for me means a loving, committed, faithful and lifelong relationship between two adult persons. The gender preference of those persons is irrelevant. As long as some such partnerships in Australia are accorded less recognition and fewer rights than others, our society is guilty of gross injustice.

Our lesbian daughter and her partner are just as loyal and supportive to each other, and just as fine citizens, as our other daughter and her partner. We love and admire all of them equally. We want to see them, and all other couples, equally treated under Australian law. I understand that a majority of Australian voters feel the same.

Christians have in some quarters been seen to hold conservative views on this subject. I would like to record my conviction that nowhere in the Bible is there to be found any condemnation of the kind of relationship described above between same-sex partners. I would also like to pay tribute to my 60 fellow parishioners of all ages, every one of whom without exception has been 100% supportive of our daughter and her woman partner, and delighted for them in their happiness together.

I believe that the time has come for the Australian parliament to uphold the democratic principle of justice by enshrining marriage equality for same-sex couples in law. I urge all concerned to do everything in their power to ensure that this is achieved as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Dorothy Howes