

To the Senate Enquiry on the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2010,

I am writing to submit my support for any amendment that will work towards removing discrimination in my country. I would like to provide my reasoning behind this and help my representatives take a step towards freedom and equality, to making Australia the country it is meant to be.

I have been deeply disgusting having to explain to persons from countries where this was an issue decades ago how such a forward-thinking, educated country could be so far behind in the realm of homosexual rights. Ignoring developed countries such as Canada, Norway and Germany, even places considered not as economically developed as Australia like Argentina have passed legislation acknowledging same sex marriage. Even certain states in the United States of America, Mexico and Brazil recognise same sex marriage.

There are those who wish to perpetuate discrimination in the irrational fear that it would lead to polygamy, bestiality and a variety of other nonsensical claims. This is ridiculous because one merely needs to change the marriage act from “one man and one woman” to “two consenting adults.” The arguments about “moral degradation” are nothing more than people trying to protect their homophobic views since Australia wasn’t immoral before the Howard government changed the Marriage act to being “one man and one woman.”

Any claims that “marriage is a religious state of being” are nullified by the fact that the government is in charge of regulating and acknowledging it. This is supported two main facts: that heterosexual couples who have no religious affiliation at all are allowed to be married; and that it is law, and the Australian Constitution section 116 says, “The Commonwealth shall not make any law for establishing any religion, or for imposing any religious observance, or for prohibiting the free exercise of any religion, and no religious test shall be required as a qualification for any office or public trust under the Commonwealth.” This negates any claim from religious groups to the state of marriage apart from ceremonies in their churches, which would not be an issue since this is Australia.

Some claims have been made the idea that same-sex marriage would cause issues for children of same-sex couples, and that adoption and being raised in an “unnatural way” would be the wrong thing to allow. Adoption is separate from the right to marry, there are many other prerequisites and rules for even a heterosexual couple to adopt, not just being married. The idea that children need a mother and a father to be “normal” was an excuse made when forced adoptions occurred in the 1950’s-1970’s since women could surely not raise children by themselves. It is also an excuse touted when grandparents want to remove custody from an single father. These are just unsubstantiated biases that those who believe they know better exclaim to “protect society.” So far, since single parents have been supported by the government, society has not collapsed. Indeed, enshrining marriage equality would do wondrous things for children of same-sex couples, sending a message that the government has no issue with your parents, be proud of where you come from. It would logically decrease bullying which only exists due to children being brainwashed by their homophobic parents.

Australia has always been proudly at the forefront of human rights, and I would gladly see my government take another step to ensuring marriage equality of all Australians.

Yours Faithfully,