

Chanika Desilva

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on
Legal and Constitutional Affairs
PO Box 6100, Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Inquiry: Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2010

Support for Marriage Equality

Dear Senators,

I write on behalf of all these signatories who want to voice their support for Marriage Equality. These people come from all different backgrounds, denominations and sexual orientations and believe in the right of every individual to marriage equality.

I am a First Generation Immigrant who has come to Australia in search of these basic human freedoms. I have come from a country that views women as subordinate and their role and opportunities are limited and predestined. The right to choose what I wear, what I want to do with my life and the right to marry whom I choose has all been afforded to me by this great country of ours, Australia. I have been blessed with the education and freedoms that have allowed me to change Religions, travel the world and become an actress.

I have been given the freedom to choose whom I marry and I believe every single person should have the same basic human right. Australia is a country based on freedom of choice. We allow women the choice of Abortion and Divorce in this country but do not recognise their right to marry another women, an act that is based on love and commitment.

I changed religions at the age of ten and knew from such a young age what I believed to my parent's heartbreak. I still struggle to find acceptance within my world and know the importance of embracing people's differences. As a country based on opportunity, equality and freedom we must embrace differences and not create policies based on fears, but treat every person with compassion and respect, affording them the dignity and freedom to be exactly who they were meant to be. Marriage is not an institution created to "build society" but a legal recognition of committed, healthy and loving relationships,

whose families - from all backgrounds - happen to make our society better.
Same - sex marriage is part of our diverse make up and should be recognised
by law.

Yours Sincerely,

Chanika Desilva

We support Same-Sex Marriage;

Chanika Desilva
Daniel Nemes
Claire Elise Stewart-Moore
Daniela Dobrota
Dilini Desilva
Anneka Tattersall
Sarah Quin
Leila Khiev
Ingrid Haubert
Sachini Desilva
Daniella Serret