

## Submission to the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012 Review

My name is Jan Thwaites and I am a 49 year old heterosexual woman from Queensland. I have many friends who identify as gay, lesbian and transgender. For the first time in history the Queensland Government has taken away rights from the LGBT community and I find this deplorable. I hope the review committee makes the right decision and proceeds to protect the rights of LGBTI people nationally just as the heterosexual community already has.

I whole-heartedly support the protection of the LGBTI people from discrimination based on their sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status.

Why do I support this protection? Simply put, everyone is a human being and all human beings should be allowed to have equal protections. All human beings seek happiness and stability in their lives and LGBTI are no exception and they should be protected from discrimination just as any other person. No other human being should be allowed to discriminate or not allow another human being to have equal rights, when they themselves already have those rights.

Sexual Orientation and Gender identity should not make any difference to the employment of a person. An example is that I work with quite a lot of gay men and trans people. They provide health information on a daily basis to members of the general public, either over the phone or face to face. They perform just as well as their heterosexual colleagues and their sexual orientation or gender identity is not a contributing factor for giving people health advice. If they do the job well then there should not be any issues.

LGBTI people are no different to heterosexuals. They are all someone's son or daughter. Some are brothers or sisters to siblings. Some are aunts and uncles. Some are grandparents. Even some are parents. LGBTI people contribute to society by working and paying taxes. LGBTI people buy property and make lives for themselves. LGBTI people have families of their own. LGBTI people have the same emotions as heterosexuals. LGBTI people should not be discriminated against just because of who they are attracted to.

Those opposed to this review are small minded and uneducated about LGBTI people. This is highlighted with the repeated insinuation that LGBTI people have a 'chosen lifestyle'. They see LGBTI people as some sort of threat to society, when really, the only threat to society is the narrow minds of these people. I am appalled at some of the statements made by those opposed to these changes. They are talking about LGBTI people as if they are not human beings and, that to me, is the real threat to society. None of the people opposed to the review have given a rational reason why they are opposed to it, but just they don't like it. No one has given examples of how the rights of other people are going to be eroded away if LGBTI people are given the rights, that they themselves already enjoy.

It's about time LGBTI people were recognised by this country and ALL of its citizens should be equally treated under the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012.

Above everything else, it is the right thing to do in 2012.

Thank you for your time.

Jan Thwaites