

To whom it may concern,

I fully endorse the submission made by Australian Marriage Equality in favour of the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009.

If Australian citizens are encouraged to plan our futures from an early age - by arranging superannuation with our first job, for example, or getting health insurance - why can't same-sex couples plan their futures together?

I support equal rights for all Australians. There should be no exceptions to that statement - no similar rights, not some rights; all equal rights.

Same-sex couples do not threaten the moral fabric of our society - in fact, legally cementing their union will help form more stable, concrete family structures.

The heteronormative concept of the nuclear family is an outdated notion that needs to expand to reflect modern arrangements, in both same-sex and opposite-sex couples.

Some people will still be opposed to homosexuality in general - and that's fine to debate it in a public forum. But the law should not carry prejudicial or archaic notions that effectively encourage discrimination.

It's about time Australia showed leadership on this issue, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, by making all marriages legal.

It's going to happen anyway - the difference is how Australia's reaction will be remembered by future generations.

Thank you for considering my submission.