

Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

27 August 2009

Dear Sir/Madam:

*Re: Inquiry into the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009*

I write to you today to about the Marriage Equality Amendment Bill 2009, introduced by Senator Hanson-Young.

While I am only a teenager, heterosexual and have had little life and relationship experience, the issue of gay rights is something that I am passionate about.

What right do we have to deny two people who truly love each other the ability to express their love in the most pure way possible?

In 2007, there were 47,963 divorces in Australia (ABS 2008), that's over forty thousand couples who came to an agreement that they did not want to be together anymore - yet thousands of couples are denied the right to have a long and fulfilling relationship.

In my opinion, the majority of the Australian community supports allowing two people who love each other whether they be two males, two females or male and a female, to proclaim their love in the highest legal manner.

Some opponents of gay marriage claim that it undermines 'traditional' marriage yet seem to be unable to explain exactly how; if two men in Cairns are allowed to become married, how will that affect the marriage of my parents?

Marriage is an institution which predates modern religions, Australia today is a multi-cultural and multi-faith society and as such it would be inappropriate for us to construct our laws around what a certain group believes instead we should take into account what is the *right* thing to do, how

Australia can progress into a land of freedom and equality, where people feel comfortable and safe, where people will be no longer discriminated against on the basis of whom they choose to love.

I urge the Senate, we, as a mature and informed country, should act on our social and ethical obligation to remove all discrimination from our country's laws and allow love to flourish.

Yours sincerely,