

**Submission  
No 62**

## **EQUALITY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (LGBTIQA+) BILL 2023**

**Organisation:** Ambassadors & Bridge Builders International

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## **AMBASSADORS & BRIDGE BUILDERS INTERNATIONAL (ABBI) SUBMISSION TO THE INQUIRY INTO EQUALITY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (LGBTIQA+) BILL**

I'm grateful for the opportunity to make a submission to the NSW Committee on Community Services Inquiry into the Equality Legislation Amendment (LGBTIQA+) Bill 2023 (NSW) (the Equality Bill).

There are often many high priority issues for governments to devote time to, which means that sometimes, smaller or things that might seem insignificant, that need attention can be overlooked.

New understandings in science and human behaviours mean that laws, at times need to be updated to reflect those new understandings.

I can still recall the fear I lived in as a gay teenager in Sydney in the 1960s. If I was caught in any homosexual activity, I could have been taken from my family and either put in a juvenile delinquent facility or a mental institution. As you will know, it wasn't till 1984 that I was no longer classed as a criminal in my state. By this time, the decriminalisation of homosexuality had already been achieved in South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and the Northern Territory. It would seem that New South Wales, instead of being progressive, was dragging its heels in the area of law reform.

Equality Australia has completed a comprehensive audit of NSW legislation impacting LGBTIQA+ individuals, careers, families, relationships, organisations and community. Over five hundred laws that need amendments is quite a startling number.

These inadequacies are adequately addressed in Alex Greenwich MP's Equality Bill. It is clear from the [Equality Australia Bill Explainer](#) that New South Wales is once again lagging behind other states.

I'm sure there will be opponents who will say that these amendments apply to only a small number of people. Does it really matter? It matters to the individual. It matters to the parents with a trans child. And so much more. Every individual in New South Wales should be treated equally, with justice and be protected.

Much work has gone into the legislation before this inquiry. It is thorough and comprehensive. As an LGBTIQA+ organisation we fully support all the recommendations of Alex Greenwich's Equality Legislation Amendment (LGBTIQA+) Bill 2023 and encourage the government to pass the Bill without amendments.