

Submission  
No 288

## INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

As a lesbian transwoman (I'm using my legal name and title for the Origin of Submission section) with many gay friends, the issue of marriage equality is, and always has been a deeply personal one.

I remember, back before I'd accepted my identity as a transwoman, sitting and listening to my best friends in the whole world tell me how they're unable to marry the loves of their lives because of their genitals.

I listened to them tell me how the image that they had for their lives since preschool - marriage and kids - had to be written off. They had to come to terms with the fact that, should they one day meet their soulmate and want to spend their lives with them that - no matter how much they want to - they will never be able to say the two words that would mean the world to them.

I listened to them and - back then - i felt for them. I hated the fact that the ones I care about were being torn apart by a stupid, outdated law in the 21st Century.

And then I realised who I am.

And their struggles took on a whole new meaning for me.

I didn't just empathize with them now, I was struggling alongside them. I had to look at my life, at my future, at my dreams.

And write them off.

I had to come to terms with the fact that, as it stands now, I am no longer able to get married.

By denying gays and lesbians marriage equality, that is what you're asking us to do.

Give up our dreams.

Give up the Australian Dream.

Why? Because of something we can't change?

How can you stand there and call Australia the Lucky Country with a straight face when its citizens are forced - from the moment they're born, whether they realise it or not - to give up their dreams.

Dreams that you assure us from birth, can come true in Australia?

Australia, you tell us, is a country where everyone gets a fair go.

I guess my friends and I aren't Australians then.

Does that mean we don't have to pay taxes?