

**Submission
No 83**

INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

Name: Mr Alan Barnes

Date received: 31/01/2013

I understand that some church-going Australians have concerns over this issue, but my marrying my same-sex partner of 39 years does not counter their beliefs any more than if I were to marry while jumping out of an aeroplane, or being married by an Elvis Presley impersonator etc. etc. These latter ceremonies, while not conventional, still bring full government recognition without involving the Church. By refusing our right to marry, our relationship is seen in law as not quite as authentic as that of someone who is permitted to marry.

What we are asking is for this to be seen plain and simply as a matter of equality. We are asking for nothing more than what you, your family, your friends, your neighbours, in fact every other Australian, already has ... that is, the right to choose to marry their life-partner. I would have thought even people of faith would be supportive of that ideal.