

Submission  
No 491

## INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

## Standing Committee on Social Issues

Thank you for the opportunity to express my views and give my opinion on the matter of same sex marriage. From the perspective of a young person in NSW I believe that Same-Sex Marriage (SSM) should be legalised.

Respect, dignity, equality, and a sense of belonging, these are our ideals as Australians, we are welcoming of other nationalities into our country and we respect their beliefs and traditions, we make them feel like they belong. Why don't we do the same for homosexuals? Instead, they are labeled as 'fags' and discriminate against. Men and women persecuted for their sexual preferences. Men and women who fight the same wars as us, pay the same bills, they are a part of someone's family just like every other Australian. Yet, they are denied the simple pleasure of marriage.

I understand that this is mainly because homosexual relationships are frowned upon in the bible, but I do not believe this gives the right to discriminate against them. If anything, I think it would almost promote discrimination and intolerance towards gays, this is because young people who may be too young to understand and make their own minds about gays, will be looking at the churches and their role models and seeing them treat gays in a negative way. This will obviously create another generation of people who believe gays are 'icky' or 'unnatural'.

I firmly believe that we (A country, Australia) cannot advance forward when discrimination is still a part of our society, and if SSM will help promote the abolishment of discrimination and allow us to move forward I think it should be allowed. In my opinion love is love and allowing homosexuals to get married will not be a negative thing or derogate the term 'marriage'. Instead, I believe this will help bring Australians closer. 😊