

## **INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW**

**Name:** Mrs Jannelle Brown

**Date received:** 31/01/2013

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Dear Committee

I am the mother of four fabulous young men age 17 to 24. My oldest son is in a long term and committed gay relationship. As a parent it breaks my heart to hear him become saddened and angered by the fact that he cannot celebrate his love for his partner through legal marriage as do non gay couples. We will be traveling to attend their commitment ceremony next year, however, I strongly support their right to a legal and binding marriage.

Research has yielded some revealing results regarding the fact that homosexuality is genetic, it is not a choice. We can no more discriminate against a person because they are born with autism, cerebral palsy, left handedness or even red hair than we can because a person has been born homosexual.

While my son and his partner have the full love and support of our family, I am always very saddened and distressed to hear stories of the many young gay people that are forced to have no contact with their families, beaten because of their differences, and treated as secondary citizens in what I would call a racist manner. Sadly, statistics show that over 30% of teenage suicides are committed by gays and lesbians. For many years we have been trying to sooth the wrong doings to the indigenous population of Australia by our leaders of yesteryear, however, by logical extension, it can be argued that you, our leaders of today, are doing the very same thing to the gay community by excluding one 'race' of people from the rights afforded to every other Australian.

In line with consistent evidence that homosexuality is genetic and therefore should not be discriminated against I support the legalisation of gay marriage and equality for all.

Thanking you Jannelle Brown