

**Submission
No 426**

INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

Name: Mr Matias Berbis

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An open letter to those that oppose Same Sex marriage.

When I realised I was gay (around 14-15 years old) it scared me. There was just so much hate in the 90s and fear of AIDS which fueled ignorance and intolerance. I know that it was much, much worse before then but I wasn't alive then so I can't comment on it.

When I think of how much the world has changed just in the last 10 years it brings so much joy into my heart.

If I was a 15 year old now, I know I would have had more confidence to accept myself and I wouldn't have had the self esteem issues I had growing up because I knew how much worse it used to be.

However things are still not good enough. There are children out there feeling like they don't belong, like they are wrong or shouldn't be and taking their own lives.

This won't stop until we have full equality in every single aspect of life. Until a 15 year old can realise he's same sex attracted and doesn't start crying like I did 17 years ago we should feel ashamed of ourselves.

Fast-forward to today, I live the most normal life I could. I've got a great group of friends who support each other and I'm engaged to the most amazing person in the world.

Here's a video of the moment Daniel proposed to me.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qLHJifCVHM>

There's just so much joy and happiness from this moment. This is the reason that we all need to have towards Same Sex marriage. Just happiness and love.

Then, maybe, a 15 year old can come to the realisation he's same sex attracted and not feel like life isn't worth living.