

**Submission
No 77**

INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

Name: Mr Stuart Widdison

Date received: 31/01/2013

My name is Stuart Widdison. My boyfriend and I have been together 10 years this year and we love each other. We have lived together for 8 years and even had my son and daughter living with us for a few years of that.

Im a bit older than my boyfriend and we have good times and bad times just like any couple. My family and friends know that I am gay and dont treat me any differently than any of our other friends. We arent into the "gay scene" although we do like to think that one day we could be married like any other couple.

We arent looking to convert anyone to being gay. We arent asking for anything that my brother, sister or friends havent got, we simply want to be treated equal. We want to be able to share our love with our friends and call each other Husband.

On a personal note the last few years my health has declined, Im 42 and I now have arthritis in my joints. It means I dont move around as easily as I used to, but my boyfriend has been super supportive and loving through all of it.

We want to be married, we want to be equal, not special, just equal to everyone else. Black people and women were given equal rights because its obvious they are human and as good as anyone else, so why do you think Im not?

Please, consider that we are normal people too. Nothing special, just normal everyday guys, who want to be treated equal. To say that our love for each other is every bit as equal to the love that heterosexual couples have for each other

Thank you

Stuart