

**Submission
No 287**

INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

Name: Miss Jaimie McCaw

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Hi, my name is Jaimie. I'm 19 years old, female, a student of the University of Canberra and grew up in a small coastal town in NSW. I also happen to be gay. Usually I would not mention that last part when introducing myself, since I don't believe sexuality should be a big deal, but I find that it is relevant in this circumstance as one day, I would love to be married, and I would love to raise a family with the woman I love. What's so wrong with that? Well, I don't know. Two consenting adults who are in a loving, committed and healthy relationship deserve a lot more than just a 'civil service.' I'm young, I know that. My future plans may even change. I may decide not to get married or have children, but that's just it. It should be MY choice! I deserve to have the right to marry the person I love if that is what I wish. I deserve to have the same rights that my heterosexual friends and family members have. My children, if I decide to have any, deserve the security of having married parents. At this point in my life, my desires for the future are to have a successful career, marry the woman I love, and to start a family. As I said, those plans could possibly change, but what if they don't? When I get down on one knee and say those three words 'Will you marry me?' I want to mean that! And of course, it's not just me. There are millions of same sex couples who want and deserve the right to marry, not just in the future but now! Them, their friends, their family, their children, all deserve that happiness. We don't deserve put up with the day to day hatred that many of us receive simply for being who we are, but to not allow us the basic human right to marry and share in that happiness that so many of our friends, family and even our enemies have, is just that cruel additive to an unequal life. So please, open your hearts and support love.