

## INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

My partner and I have been together for a while now and are ready to commitment to each other formally. We desperately want to get married, we discuss our dream life and wedding day with our family and friends regularly all of who are extremely supportive and excited by the idea of us tying the knot. I didn't really realise how much not be able to wed legally meant until a close family friend talked about a heterosexual wedding she had attended just days before whilst we were discussing what my wedding ceremony would be like ( should I ever be allowed the right to marry) and she said "... yes that's a nice idea, but at the REAL wedding I went to.." I know she wasn't intending to be rude or hurtful but I assure you her words were a clear reminder that the government have decided that my love is not real. That my committed, trusting relationship is not valuable. The life I was born to live does not deserve to be recognized or protected by law. Yet it is recognized when the government wants to save money- tell me that's not discrimination.

Without the right to marry you have deemed me to a life as a second class citizen that others can and do discriminate against because of my sexual orientation. We are considered to be the others, the lesser and the lack of law recognizing our love reinforces this in the heterosexual community.

I am a Teacher. I am a daughter. I am an Australian. I am a loving partner. I am willing and wanting to commit myself to her. I will not break the institution of marriage. I want to honor it.