

Submission
No 301

INQUIRY INTO SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW IN NSW

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

Marriage Equality matters to my partner and I because of the legal, social, and personal matters it enshrines.

The very ceremony itself proudly announces and/or confirms the wonderful relationship that the happy couple share. This is a ceremony for friends and family to witness the bringing together of the 2 individuals who wish to share the rest of their lives together as a couple, an entity.

Being able to get married has legal benefits which are fundamental, and include immigration, inheritance beneficiaries, next of kin authorisations and others.

Marriage has definite legal implications and benefits, all of which should be available to anyone wishing to marry their loving life partner. Marriage is no longer simply a religious ceremony. It has its claws firmly in today's legal system, a system which must encompass all citizens. Marriage today is above simple religion, and because of that we all must all be given the right to marry our partner, regardless of religion status or sexual preference.

As history shows, at one time it was illegal for women to vote, for blacks to vote, and interracial couples were frowned upon. Decades later, here we are wondering what all the fuss was about. Equality was the right thing to do, and once again history dictates that it is the right thing to do.

Religion must be removed from this equation as it is irrelevant to the argument today. Marriage is now firmly a legal ceremony and demands responsibilities of the parties involved. The argument that marriage equality will destroy the sanctity of marriage are cavernously flawed given the high divorce rate currently observed, as well as the whimsy of some heterosexual couples to get married only to divorce within a week, and this farce is glorified by the fact that some countries have drive through wedding chapels!

Allow everyone the right to marry their life partner. We only get once crack at life, and to think that for some people, marriage equality and all that comes with it may never be a reality because of religious based opinions or beliefs is incredibly frustrating and heartbreaking.

Marriage equality is leveling the playing field, it is empowering couples who already exist within our society, and the very nature of equality provides that nothing is taken away from anyone, indeed that it is all available to everyone.

Please do the right thing by those in the community who wish to marry their life partner and support marriage equality.

Thank you in anticipation!