

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

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Dear Committee Members

I am a mother of six, one of whom is gay. This son is a wonderful example of an Australian. I am fifth generation Australian and have been very proud of my heritage. I am not proud of my state of Queensland and my country in the discrimination of our legal system in denying this son the same rights of marrying the person of his choice to form a stable relationship sanctioned by not only society but also our law.

His brothers and sisters are no better citizens than what this son is. Why should his relationship be less than theirs in the law? He has already faced many difficulties unknown to 'straight' sons and daughters as he has been treated 'less' than those of us deemed of 'normal' sexuality.

My wish is to see our state and our country recognises that in a society where we pride ourselves on first world status, that all our sons and daughters are given equal value. The awful discrepancy of equal marriage rights and freedom from discrimination based on sexuality is addressed. This will go a long way in addressing the terrible incidence of suicide among people who identify as gay.

I write this letter of my own right and not as part of any organisation other than a member of society.

Sincerely

Valerie Fjellstrom

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