

Dear Sir/Madam,

My partner and I live in Lockleys, South Australia.

We are a very happy same-sex couple, with fabulous family, friends and neighbours. We are fully accepted as a happy and loving couple by everyone we know, just like any other couple we know, regardless of race, age, gender or sexual orientation. The only time we are made to feel 'different' is around issues of matrimony. It seems odd that in a friendly and open society like Australia, that happy and loving couples who form an important part of the community are not allowed the joys, status or respect of marriage. (Like our peers, we support our friends and families, are generous and kind to others, and pay our rates and taxes, etc.) Marriage is the one area that we are made different.

Statistically, research indicates that conservatively at least 5% of a population may identify as being homosexual or bisexual. In countries (like Australia) where access to knowledge and education has enabled understanding and tolerance, it is recognised that driving such things underground causes incredible social and health problems, not to mention the pain and sadness of mental health issues and addictions. If people are made to feel different, unaccepted or unequal they can easily become ill.

The best we can ask of our Government is that it leads us as communities and as Australians to be decent, respectful, happy and healthy people, encourage us to treat others as we'd like to be treated ourselves, and to make informed and sensible decisions on our behalf.

My partner and I sincerely ask that you and your peers support the legislative change required to allow same sex couples to marry.

Yours sincerely,
Simone Tippett & Karen Magee
