

To: Senator Lyn Allison

It is with deep concern that I write this letter. Concern about the direction this country is heading in, if the government continues to pass legislation that blatantly discriminates against tax-paying citizens and residents of Australia.

I am referring to discrimination against same-sex relationships. I myself am confused as to why there continues to be parliamentary debate about same-sex recognition, when it is historically documented from countless sources that same-sex couplings have existed for thousands (if not more) years.

Why is there such difficulty in allowing same-sex partners all the same legal rights that their heterosexual counterparts currently enjoy? Remembering that the law is supposed to be based on logic and reason, thereby removing it from the realm of religion (which itself is flawed by the humans who claim to know it best), there is no just cause for the continuation of non-sensical and fear-based laws.

My partner was recently informed by the ATO that she would be required to pay a \$900 Medicare Levy. If she were in a defacto relationship where the combined income is under \$100k, she would not have to pay it. She meets all the requirements for not having to pay the levy, bar being heterosexual. Same-sex relationships apparently don't exist in the eyes of the law. \$900 that my partner has to pay, that a heterosexual person would not have to. Where is the logic in this?

If members of parliament could find it within themselves to act from integrity rather than fear, then the Australian public would not be facing such an embarrassing situation. Ignoring human rights is a travesty on *any* level.

Regards,

Sarah Barry