

**TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF  
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

This petition of certain citizens of Australia draws the attention of the House to:

- the failure of the Commonwealth Marriage Act (1961) to allow marriages to be solemnised between partners of the same sex;
- the failure of the Marriage Act to recognise same-sex marriages solemnised in other countries;
- the great harm this does to same-sex partners and their families by discriminating against them, entrenching a second-class legal status, and perpetuating prejudice and stigma;
- the great harm this does to marriage by associating it with discrimination; and,
- the fact that an increasing number of other countries allow same-sex marriage, and most Australians support it.

We therefore ask the House to:

- amend the Commonwealth Marriage Act so that marriages may be solemnised, and overseas marriage recognised, regardless of the sex of the partners concerned.