



PFLAG Grandparents asked...

What about our Children?



Grandparents Brag Book “What about our Children?”

by

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)

www.pflagbrisbane.org.au



Photos of the grandparents with their grandchildren in this album are genuine

This photo album has been produced with love and pride. It displays the love and gratitude PFLAG parents experience when our sons and daughters in same sex relationships become parents and we have the joy of becoming grandparents. We have also produced the album as a reminder to those genuinely concerned that “our grandchildren” have grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, etc. the same as children born to heterosexual parents: just like your family.

Many well intentioned people are concerned about “the children” – “our grandchildren” when discussing our same sex attracted sons and daughters enjoying the privileges and responsibilities that come with marriage. But many forget “marriage and children” are no longer a given, regardless of the sexual orientation of the couple.

Furthermore, if you are truly concerned about “our grandchildren” please be aware the only problem “our grandchildren” encounter is ignorance and lack of support by the general community, along with the usual problems children encounter in life, just like in your family. And finally, the parental support and love our grandchildren receive from their parents and us, their extended family, is like that which you have provided for your children.

So if you really care about “our grandchildren” please encourage our federal government to legislate for marriage equality because this will be the greatest gift you can give “the children” – “our grandchildren”. It will remove stigma and prevent “the children” – “our grandchildren” from being seen as second rate and show their family is just like anyone else’s, not perfect but something to be proud of.

Shelley Argent OAM,
National Spokesperson PFLAG
Queensland President PFLAG



Any person, regardless of age, creed, culture or orientation,
wants happiness and fulfillment in their lives.

As parents and grandparents we want positive outcomes for our
sons and daughters in same sex relationships and their children, our grandchildren.

They are equally loved and equally relevant to this country and society generally.



I really love my Great Gran, she loves my jokes and keeps all of my secrets

Not so many years ago, this baby's interracial family would have suffered discrimination.
Now and rightly so - this is no longer an issue.

Now, they face discrimination because of sexual orientation - which is just wrong.
Families are evolving. Families where Mum stays at home and Dad the sole bread winner are now the minority.

Children such as this baby just want to be loved and nurtured.
Racism and homophobia are learned behaviours.

This baby deserves better and you can be part of this step forward.



I know! I am beautiful and special because all my family keep telling me!

Our grand children are very much wanted and planned for.
Same sex parenting is a real option regardless of marriage.

However, most grandparents will agree marriage is
the best option when children are involved.

As Grand-parents of children with same sex parents we want the same benefits
for our grand children as you do for yours, which is emotional stability.



My grand pop is very proud of me, he shows me off to all of his friends

Australian grandparents are saddened when our grandchildren are used as pawns in the debate surrounding "marriage equality".

Our grandchildren are loved and nurtured by our family and loved ones, just as your grand children are loved and nurtured in your family.



Sharing time with my Gran and Great Gran, life is good

As grandparents we find it very difficult to comprehend when society judges our children and their children, our grandchildren.

People have no idea the joy these children bring to our lives.
Please don't judge, be supportive and inclusive.

All families are different, no better or worse, just different.



Rough and tumble with Grandma

To be a mother or father is a natural human desire.
It isn't selfish or wrong to have or want a child regardless of sexual orientation.

Research shows that our sons and daughters are great parents and their children,
our grand children are truly loved and valued in their families - just like yours.



Quiet time with grandpa

As parents we bring our children into this world believing that in Australia we live in a free and equal society, but when a “loved one” discloses they are same sex attracted we realise very quickly that we are wrong.

Sadly, the discrimination continues directed at our much loved grandchildren who have to suffer stigma and sometimes bullying of the ignorance, bias and myths perpetuated by a minority in society associated with sexual diversity.

Marriage equality would be a leap forward to minimise the stigma and ignorance directed at our loved ones.



Grandma I would prefer milk, your finger isn't tasty

The present inequality preventing our sons and daughters from marrying
affects their children, our grandchildren, in negative ways.

As grandparents we don't want this to impact on their families
– our families, our grandchildren.



Quiet time with Gran as she reads us "The Night Before Christmas"

Over 900 million people live with marriage equality,
most conservative and many Catholic.

There is no excuse to prolong the inaction that will provide our loved ones
with dignity and respect in their relationships.

Marriage equality can only be positive for our children and our grandchildren.
If you are truly concerned about the children, our grandchildren you will support marriage equality.



I love spending time at Gran's. We do fun things and the birds are happy.

Those who pass judgement on same sex families
and their children forget they have extended family.

They are just the same as any other family.

They have relatives and family friends who visit, they have
family barbecues, sports, birthday parties etc.

Same sex families have struggles the same as any other family.

However, they also have the added burden of justifying their
right to marriage to make their family a complete unit
with the same privileges and rights as any other family.



Cooking with Grandmere et Grandpere

Grandparents can be great role models for their grandchildren.

Many have a great influence on their grandchildren thanks to their wisdom, patience, traditional values and non judgmental attitude.

They always hold a special place in their grandchildren's lives.



Granpop's our hero!

Same sex families, like heterosexual families have just as many role models for their children.
Role models can be teachers, sports coaches, uncles, aunts etc.

Children care about being loved and supported, not the gender of their parents.

It should be noted that many children may have a father and a mother,
but that does not automatically mean they are good role models.

Sexuality does not determine the quality of the parenting, nor what kind of people we are.



Getting spoiled by both of my Grandmums

Many people underestimate the impact on children when they realise their same sex parents aren't able to marry.

Watching the impact on our grandchildren when their family is stigmatised and answering their questions about "Why is this so?" is emotionally draining for us, their family and destabilising for them



I love my Granpop... he is very naughty sometimes



A quick getaway with Granpop

As heterosexual parents regardless of the family wealth, education, love and support we provide, we cannot buy our same sex attracted sons and daughters equality which includes the right to marry their partner of choice.

Furthermore, we then have to watch these same sons and daughters with families (our grandchildren) struggle to be seen as a "real family unit" while constantly being told they just want to "mimic" marriage or aren't worthy.

Our sons and daughters just want the same privileges, challenges and responsibilities that come with marriage.

They just want the same choices and rights as their heterosexual peers.



Hanging out with Gran

As parents regardless of wealth, education, love and support we provide,
we cannot buy or provide sons and daughters in same sex relationships with equality.

And, for us their parents we find it difficult to helplessly watch the
negative impact this discrimination has on their self esteem and self worth.

Worse, this affects how our grandchildren see the world.
If you really care about the children please support marriage equality.



I love my Gran, she gives special hugs anytime of the day.

Any person regardless of age, creed, culture or orientation wants happiness and fulfillment in their lives.

As parents and grandparents we want the same positive outcomes for our same sex attracted sons and daughters and their children.

The same as you want for your children and grandchildren.
We are no different.



This special baby gives us, her grandparents such joy, just like your grand children do for your family.

Many don't understand why marriage is so important to same sex couples. Some think a marriage certificate is just a piece of paper but this just isn't so!

Marriage is about family and inclusion, it's about planning a life together, it's about respect of the relationship by society as a whole, it's instant recognition and social commitment and emotional stability for them and the children (our grandchildren) and so much more.



Heading to the playground with Gran



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