

The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull, MP
Prime Minister of Australia

Dear Prime Minister,

As a Parent with an adult child in a same sex relationship, I am calling on you to allow Liberal Party Members of Parliament and Senators to have a Free Vote in Parliament – as opposed to holding a Plebiscite on the issue of same-sex marriage.

As a parent, I am fearful of “hate campaigns” from both sides and the long term effects it will have; not just on same sex couples, but on their loved ones and society as a whole. A public, national debate will particularly impact on young gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people.

A Plebiscite:

- will have a very negative impact on the children of same sex couples;
(No child wants to hear the value and worth of their parents’ relationship debated by the general public)
- will impact very negatively on the mental health of LGBT individuals;
- will be insulting to them and us their families: imagine being the subject of a national debate

If you truly care about equality and children of same sex couples – grant a Free Vote in Parliament. Don’t hold our children’s rights to ransom because of the conservative beliefs of one section of the community.

Previous changes to the Marriage Act have always been through parliamentary process and marriage equality should be the same. The outcome of a Plebiscite would still need to be finalised in Parliament. So as a parent I ask: “Why waste \$154 million?” when politicians know the majority of Australians want the Marriage Act to be inclusive of same-sex couples.

As parents, we strongly believe it’s time our adult children had the same privileges and choices as their peers and siblings. As parents, we believe it’s time their relationships are provided the same respect and recognition, that we heterosexual couples take for granted.

Only you Mr Turnbull, as our Prime Minister, can achieve this. You have vision and intelligence please find a way to make marriage equality happen in the most respectful manner - which is not via a Plebiscite.

Yours faithfully,

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Personal comments:

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