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Meanwhile in Australia

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Same-sex marriage: First weddings take place in Melbourne

Â [PHOTO:Â Lauren Price \(L\) and Amy Laker \(R\) were among the first same-sex couples to marry under the changed legislation.Â \(Facebook: Amy Laker\) RELATED STORY:Â Here's why there will be a same-sex wedding in Australia before Christmas RELATED STORY:Â These women will be among the first same-sex couples to marry in Australia](#) and it's happening next week [MAP:Â Australia](#)

Two same-sex couples have made history by becoming the first to wed under Australian law.

Lauren Price, 31, and Amy Laker, 29, exchanged vows in Sydney on Saturday, one week after the new laws came into effect.

The ceremony took place in front of 65 guests at a ceremony in Camden in Sydney's south-west.

The first same-sex weddings were expected to happen from January 9 next year but some couples have been eligible for exemptions allowing them to wed earlier.

Ms Price and Ms Laker successfullyÂ [obtained a waiver exempting them from the one-month waiting period](#)Â of a wedding because their families were travelling from Wales to be there. Â

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Friends and family of the couple flew from around the world to be part of the day.

Meanwhile, Amy and Elise McDonald's surprise wedding took place in Melbourne's Carlton Gardens on Saturday in front of about 60 unsuspecting guests.

The couple told the Herald Sun they had planned a commitment ceremony for this weekend but realised at the eleventh hour that they could be eligible for an exemption from Births, Deaths and Marriages on financial grounds.

Elise McDonald's parents had flown from Asia for the ceremony, while other siblings had made the long journey from the United Arab Emirates.

"We were always going to have a ceremony but to have it legalised is very special," she told the Herald Sun. One couple's race against time