

1 January 2017

Open letter in support of Marriage Equality

Community Legal Centres Queensland writes to express our support for marriage equality.

We recognise the right of our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (**LGBTI**) employees, volunteers, clients and customers to live and work free of prejudice and discrimination. This includes the right to marry the partner of their choice.

Australians are increasingly supportive of marriage equality, with a recent Crosby Textor survey showing seventy-two percent, believe same sex couples should be allowed to marry. We agree. Of the remaining twenty-eight percent only fourteen percent strongly opposed the proposition.

Globally, over twenty countries have passed laws to allow same sex marriage, including countries that are culturally similar to ours like New Zealand, the United States of America, Canada, and Great Britain. These countries did so with lower support for marriage equality than Australia is seeing right now.

On 22 May 2015, the Republic of Ireland held a referendum to sanction same sex marriage. A Yes vote was supported by the Government, all major political parties and the voters themselves.

On 26 June 2015, the U.S. Supreme court returned a judgement in favour of legalising same sex marriage across all 50 states.

These two events see Australia isolated among countries with English as a first language.

Not only is marriage equality the only the right thing to do, it also helps improve workplaces and service delivery by allowing everyone to be treated with equal respect and feels included. We therefore support marriage equality.

Yours sincerely,



James Farrell OAM

Director

Community Legal Centres Queensland