



The Equality Campaign is one of the key organisations representing the Australian community and working with the Federal Parliament to achieve civil marriage equality for all Australians.

The Equality Campaign received numerous examples of offensive, misleading and intimidating material that has been produced and circulated during the Australian Marriage Equality Postal Survey period.

The Equality Campaign asks that the Committee recommend that appropriate funding and support be given to LGBTIQ people and allies negatively impacted by the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey.

**Submission to the Senate Standing Committee on
Finance and Public Administration References
Committee's Inquiry into the Arrangements for the
Marriage Law Postal Survey**

31 January 2018

Contact: senateinfo@equalitycampaign.org.au

Sample of offensive, misleading and intimidating material received by the Equality Campaign during the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey period

Table of Contents

E-mails and letters.....	3
Hate mail received	3
Complaint received – misleading campaigning.....	4
Negative response to opt-in campaign e-mail (received by e-mail).....	4
Negative response to campaigning e-mail (received by post)	4
Website form submission – negative submissions received	5
Responses received to text message campaign activity.....	5
Posters, pamphlets and flyers.....	7
‘Transgender marriage’ pamphlet.....	7
Unauthorised, misleading materials distributed	8
Posters encouraging suicidal ideations	8
Unauthorised campaign material being distributed by no side	9
Poster distributed, shared via social media	11
Misleading, unauthorised material distributed.....	12
Media articles and social media posts	13
Vandalism of Warrnambool Uniting Church	13
Dog kicked over ‘Equality’ scarf	13
Social media channels targeted with homophobia	13
Comments left on campaign social media channels	13
Personal stories.....	15
Unsolicited negative contact after appearing on campaign materials.....	15
Damage to property	16
Vandalised property - Sydney	16
Vandalism of Warrnambool Uniting Church	16
Vandalised public property – Sydney	17
Vandalism of public transport – Sydney.....	18
Damage to personal property	19
Vandalism of public property – Melbourne	20

E-mails and letters

Hate mail received

Mailed correspondence was received by the Equality Campaign during the postal survey campaign period from individuals against marriage equality. The majority of this correspondence was anonymous.

Included below was one response from the campaign, received on 19 October 2017.

To Poof or Leso CEO

Under your equality “fairer “ Australia programme it is important to note the people of Australia have very grave concerns with the loss of parental rights and restriction on freedom of speech and religion.

With the recent registration of the radical poofster and lesbien association the (lgbtiq) sex and gender education programmes in schools will be introduced and taught to children as young as 6 and 7 years old and be informed they can be any gender they like.

If this is what you equality mob want then be rest assured normal people will not tolerate being aligned under the marriage act with your sick way of living.

I have not left my address so you can reply because I am deeply concerned the paper you use can infect me with the new strain of aids virus that is presently being spread in Oxford street.

Concerned Australian Resident

Complaint received – misleading campaigning

The following complaint was received by the Equality Campaign on 24 October 2017 in response to an eDM sent to opt-in subscribers.

I have noticed around the Northern area of Melbourne that some NO Campaigners are approaching people at supermarkets and shopping centre TELLING THEM that all who vote YES will there schools and pre-school centres will be infected by children whose parents have VOTED YES.

Negative response to opt-in campaign e-mail (received by e-mail)

Negative responses were often received to opt-in communications sent by e-mail during the postal survey campaign period. Included is one example received by the Equality Campaign on 13 October 2017.

*GOF YOURSELVES YOU F POOFTA,DYKE NON HUMAN MORONS.....I F VOTED
NO,NO,NO....F WITS....FREE ROCKET ONE WAY TRIP TO THE MOON FOR ALL YOU QUEERS*

Negative response to campaigning e-mail (received by post)

During the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey period, negative letters and correspondence were often received by the Equality Campaign, as well as to prominent individuals who supported the campaign. This is an excerpt of a letter received to an individual campaigning for the Equality Campaign on 16 October 2017.

You cannot send me your
SMS message again. You are
a dog. I am going to heaven
while you will go to HELL
I am not a puffer. I think
all Homosexuals will rot in
hell.

Website form submission – negative submissions received

As a part of the Equality Campaign, supporters were encouraged to share their stories with the Equality Campaign through its main website. Some of those stories were then shared (after obtaining consent) through authorised social channels. Submissions with negative comments and vilification were received throughout the survey period, including the below example received on 3 October 2017.

5	993039	Irish Faggot	F	off Irish Faggot	10/3/17 6:11	faggotsnotwanted@c	567890234	NSW	2001
6									

Responses received to text message campaign activity

On 23 September 2017, an authorised SMS message was sent by the Equality Campaign encouraging participants in the survey to respond with 'YES'. Included below is a sample of the responses received to the text message.

You desperate group of pathetic individuals!. You are eroding family values and the very nature of human existence. I hope you one day wake up to yourselves and realise the damage you're doing to nature just because you have "feelings" Absolutely disgusted by your ignorance of the natural course of nature. I'm voting no and that's also because I believe in families. Yes a family is a mother and father.

Leave me alone you poor simple c

Your argument is really is no different than a dog demanding to be called a fish because it can swim too and it's total prejudice calling it a dog.

Get j ! Don't send this shit to me and burn in hell !!!!

You are sick lowlife. Hope that all of those burn j .

i will personally hunt you down and break your head. You j piece of shit faggit . I voted no because you are all a bunch of j perverted paedophile mtherj . I hope you all die due to aids. Phags.

...arrangements for the postal survey to use either girls' or boys' facilities (see over page).

Our political elites didn't tell us that changing anti-discrimination laws would mean boys identifying as girls using the girls' facilities. Now we find they are telling us to vote for same-sex marriage when it's **transgender marriage**.

More at www.transgendermarriagevote.com.au



Authorised: Paul Monagle, Australian Family Association, 3-5/1401, Burke Rd, Kew East, Vic 3102

Unauthorised, misleading materials distributed

The following communications were forwarded on to the Equality Campaign by a supporter on 20 September. The communication, titled 'Think of the child', was unauthorised and claimed that freedoms were already "under attack".

['Think of the child'](#)

Posters encouraging suicidal ideations

The Equality Campaign received a number of complaints over posters that were reportedly posted around the University of Tasmania at the end of September 2017, encouraging gay and trans people to take their own lives.



Unauthorised campaign material being distributed by no side

The Equality Campaign received numerous complaints in September and October 2017 of unauthorised campaign material being distributed encouraging survey participants to vote no. The following example was received on 20 September 2017 by a supporter of the Equality Campaign.

Changing the Marriage Act will impact you and your family

Removing gender from our marriage law will have a domino effect that reaches schools, freedom of speech and freedom of religion.

It is OK to vote "no".

In fact, if you are concerned about the impact of radical gay sex education in schools then you must vote "no".

If you are concerned about freedom of speech then you must vote "no".

And if you are concerned about freedom of religion then you must vote "no".

IT'S OK TO VOTE NO

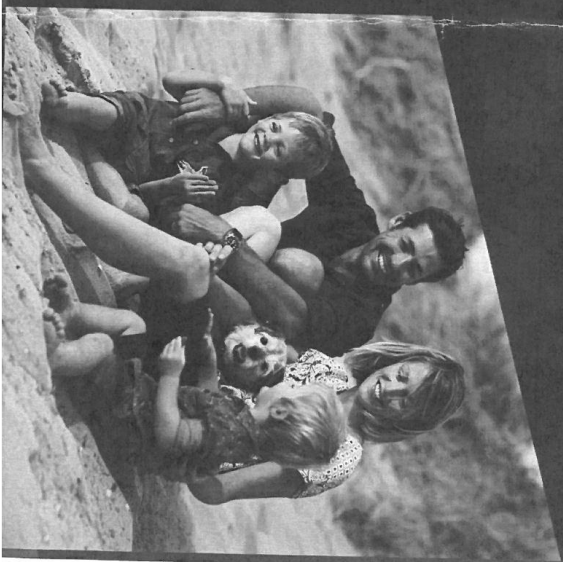
For more information on how changing the marriage law will affect you and your family, go to:

COALITION FOR MARRIAGE

coalitionformarriage.com.au



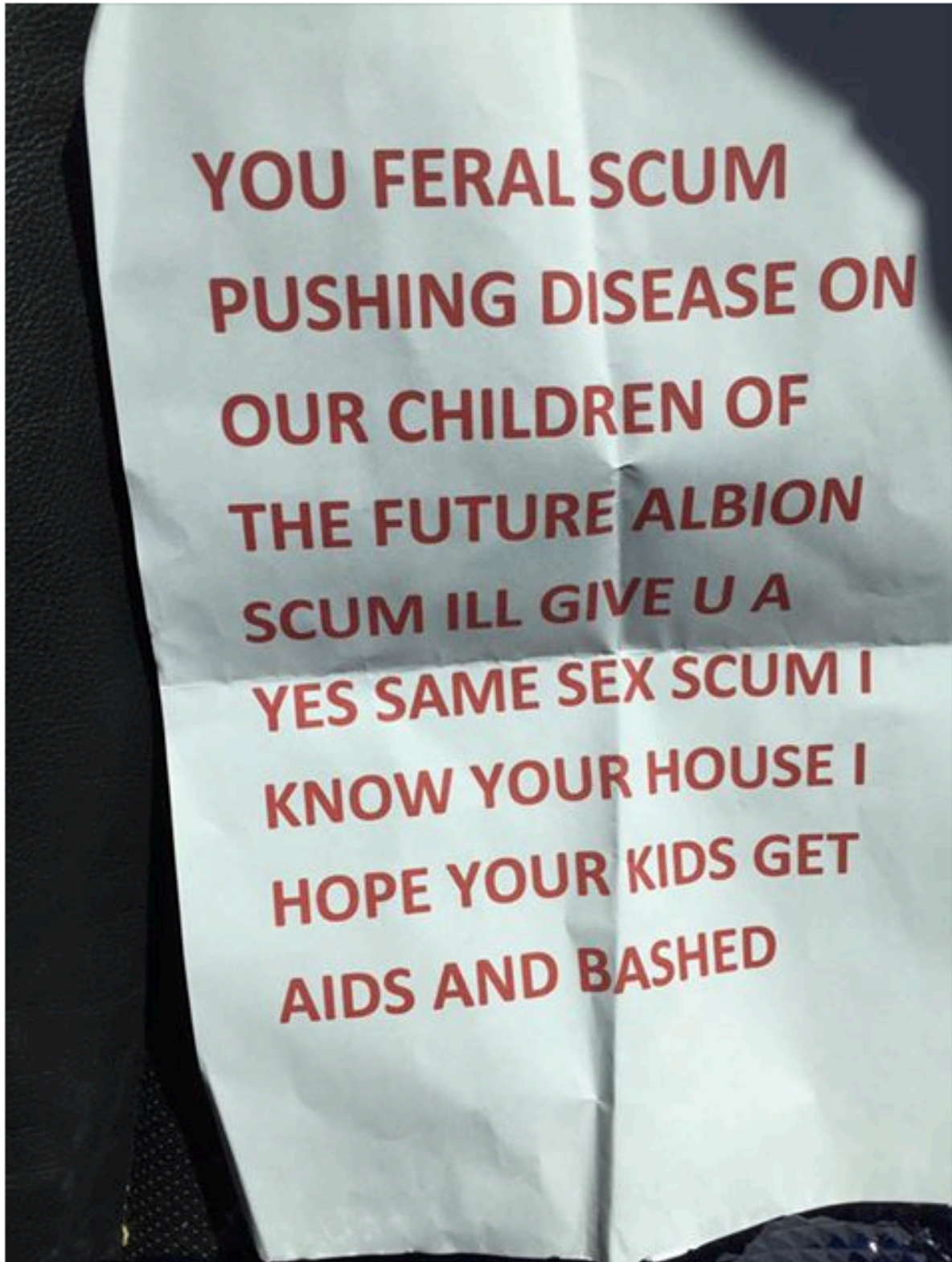
fb.me/coalitionformarriage



3 WAYS GAY MARRIAGE WILL IMPACT YOUR FAMILY


Poster distributed, shared via social media

The Equality Campaign received reports of the following poster being distributed in Warnambool, Victoria on 3 October 2017, and was subsequently shared significantly through social media.



Misleading, unauthorised material distributed

The following fundraising and campaigning material on marriage equality (and legislation unrelated to the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey) was received by a supporter of the Equality Campaign on 5 October 2017.

 **National Civic Council**

Appeal

Resources for Action

Marriage Postal Survey

Dear _____

We are in the middle of a far-reaching campaign to defend marriage. I am very impressed by what Queenslanders have achieved so far. We can win this!

Information war – We’ve turned around this battle. As partners with the Coalition for Marriage we’ve developed a ‘consequences’ education campaign which has resulted in support for same-sex marriage dropping by a huge 7 % or 1.1 million votes!

Ground campaign to reach every voter - NCC Queensland has led the charge in a massive and widespread distribution of letterbox volunteers and door-knockers. We led other friendly organisations on how to quickly coordinate the distribution and printing of leaflets and organising volunteers. NCC itself has distributed over 250,000.

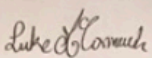
Funding – Unfortunately we’re in the red and out-spent by our opponents 10 to 1.

Tactical - The combination of social media, letterboxing, automatic phone-call surveying, and neighbourhood visitation along with educating our professionals and politicians is working well. We have targeted every level of voter engagement from lawyers to MPs to religious leaders to blue-collar workers and busy mothers.

Strategic - Whether we win or lose the postal survey we have developed a strategy to block the bills in parliament (that actually create gender-fluid (transgender) marriage) and to slowly wind back the gender-fluid ideology at state level.

KEEP US IN THE FIGHT: We need to raise \$35,000 to cover the cost of this campaign in Queensland. You can use the secure webpage via www.ncc.org.au or simply place your gift with the slip below into the enclosed **Reply Paid** envelope.

Sincerely,


Luke McCormack State President

DONATION SLIP Are your details correct? Name: _____ Postal: _____ Ph: _____
Mobile: _____ E-mail: _____

I am enclosing a **cheque/money order** to the value of \$ _____ as a donation to the: *National Civic Council*.

OR Please debit my credit card: MasterCard / VISA the amount of \$ _____
Card No: _____ / _____ / _____ Expiry Date: ____ / ____
Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

OR I have sent an **Electronic Funds Transfer** of \$ _____ into NCC’s ANZ account - *National Civic Council* - **BSB 014-010 Account 3622 20852** Please use reference: _____ [Sept-17]

Return to: NCC, PO Box 254, SALISBURY QLD 4107

Media articles and social media posts

Vandalism of Warrnambool Uniting Church

Published in The Standard – 17 October 2017

[Call out for witnesses to vandalism](#)

Dog kicked over 'Equality' scarf

Reported on by news.com.au on 3 October 2017

[Owner claims dog was kicked over 'equality' scarf](#)

Social media channels targeted with homophobia

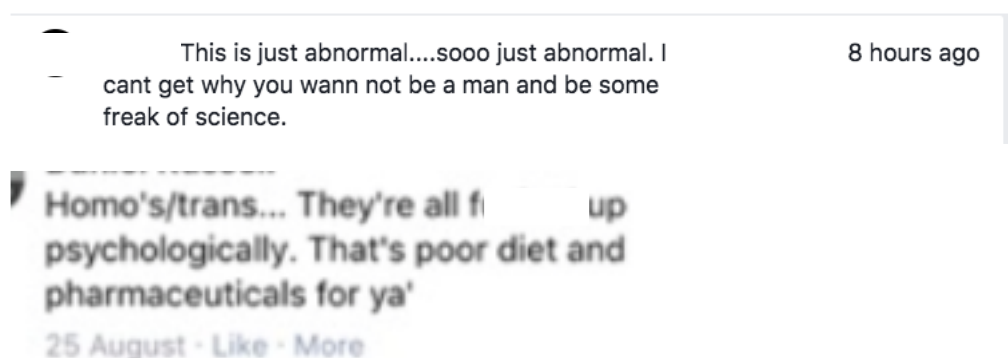
Reported on by The Guardian on 16 September 2017

[Same-sex marriage survey: Facebook accounts targeted with homophobic slurs](#)

Comments left on campaign social media channels

Negative messages were received throughout the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey period on the Equality Campaign's authorised channels, either publicly or through a private messaging option.

Included below are some examples of offensive material received (identifying details have been redacted).



MISPLACED PRIDE

THE FACTS

GAYS:
2% OF THE POPULATION
33% OF THE CHILD MOLESTERS
67% OF ALL AIDS CASES
78% HAVE STDS

HAVE LIFESPANS 30 YRS SHORTER THAN NORMAL
28% OF GAY MEN HAVE 1000 OR MORE SEXUAL PARTNERS
(75% OF CHILDREN WHOSE AIDS-RELATED MOTHERS WERE SEXUALLY TOUCHED BY A PARENT OR OTHER ADULT)
RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT BEFORE THE AGE OF 16
ARE STRONGLY CORRELATED WITH HOMOSEXUAL BEHAVIOR
HOMOSEXUALITY IS THREE TIMES MORE FATAL
THAN SMOKING OR EXTREME OBESITY
GAY "BUG CHASERS" PROMOTE
SPREAD OF HIV TO UNWITTING SEXUAL PARTNERS

THAT'S A LOT TO BE PROUD OF
BROUGHT TO YOU BY: AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

You are going to burn

men No to perverted homosexuals
• Message • 7 mins

You f up retarded pieces of shit, f off !
Don't you dare message me and try to force your
f up values onto innocent people you twisted
f ! Just because you think you were born like
that don't try to make normal innocent heterosexual
children think that is okay to have feecal (that
means shit incase you filthy dirty f don't get it)
matter on your c because you stuck it in
another man's arsehole or ram a toxic plastic fake
penis in your girlfriends vagina

Personal stories

Unsolicited negative contact after appearing on campaign materials

The following correspondence was received by the Equality Campaign on 18 September 2017 by a supporter of marriage equality who had appeared in campaign materials. The recipient was specifically targeted, and referred the recipient's gay children to conversion therapy. (Identifying details have been redacted)

Dear Mr [redacted]: When your sons were very young, they needed more emotional support from you than they apparently got. They were not born "gay," whatever you may have heard.

Please see below. Contact www.instituteforhealthyfamilies.org for telecounseling. IHF is based in the U.S.A. Good luck.--SK SEE BELOW.

Tired of being gay?

You can go straight!

...

Learn to defend your autonomy and your choice in the face of challenge:

"This is what I choose to do for myself."

"Ex-gay therapy is compatible with the decriminalization of homosexuality and the humane treatment of everyone."

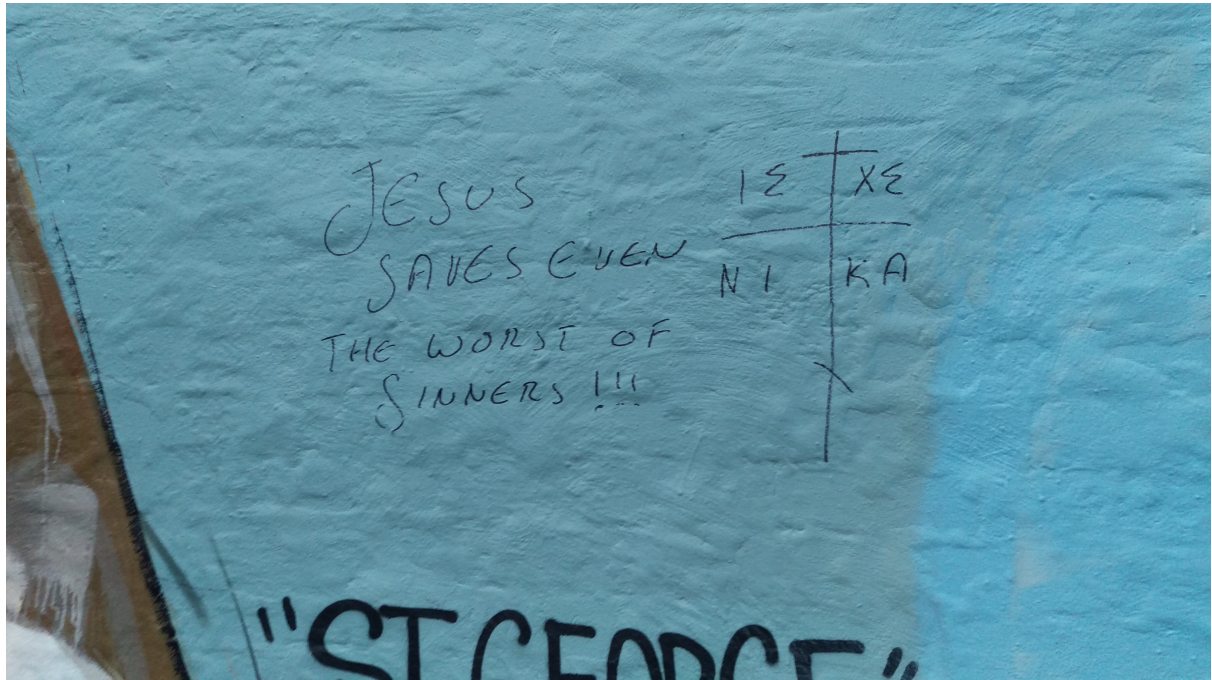
"Sorry, 'gay' just isn't 'the new black.' And if you don't want me around, I can live with that."

Find the real you beneath the old fears!

Damage to property

Vandalised property - Sydney

The Equality Campaign received on 11 October 2017 images of a property being vandalised in Erskineville, NSW. Artwork was painted on the property (with approval from its owners).



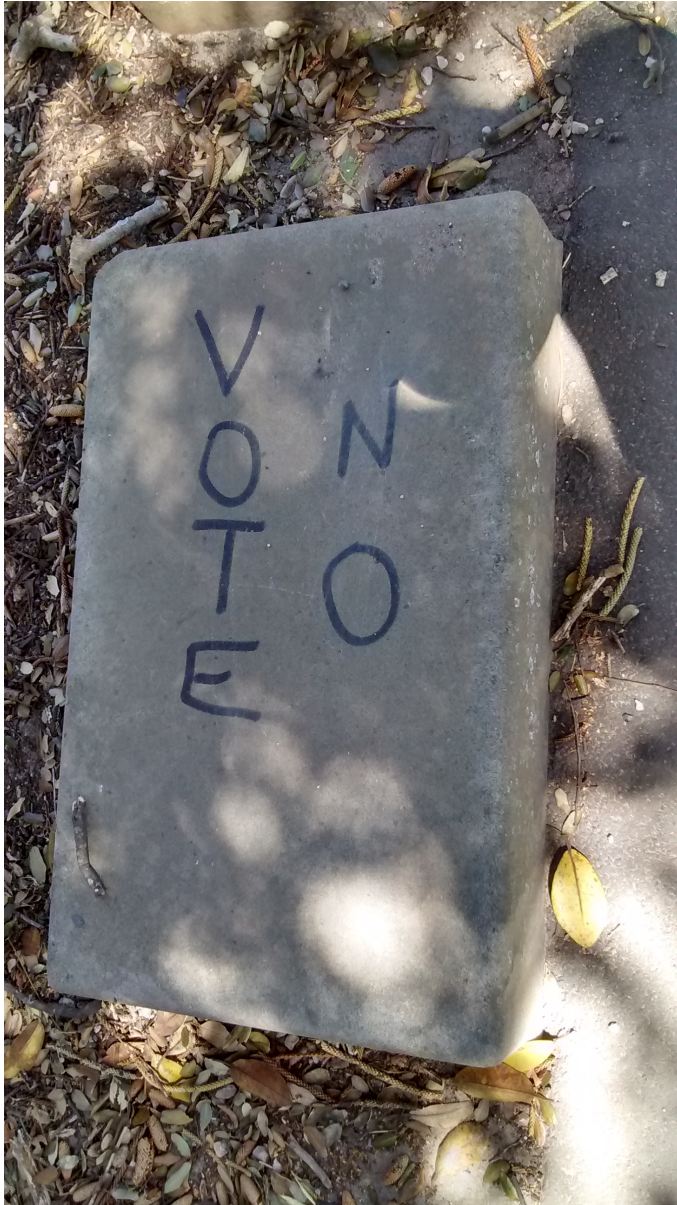
Vandalism of Warrnambool Uniting Church

Published in The Standard – 17 October 2017

[Call out for witnesses to vandalism](#)

Vandalised public property – Sydney

The Equality Campaign was notified on 7 October 2017 of vandalism in Centennial Park, Sydney with “vote no” messaging.



Vandalism of public transport – Sydney

The following vandalism appeared on a Sydney train (City Circle line) on 25 September 2017. A supporter of the Equality Campaign shared the following images.



Damage to personal property

A supporter of the Equality Campaign contacted the campaign through social media on 29 September 2017, as they painted a 'YES' sign on their property, which was then vandalised on two consecutive evenings.



Vandalism of public property – Melbourne

A supporter of the Equality Campaign contacted us on 20 September 2017 with screenshots of vandalism on public property in Melbourne.

