



SUBMISSION TO THE
FINANCE AND PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION
REFERENCES COMMITTEE'S
INQUIRY INTO
ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE
POSTAL SURVEY

Submission 31 January 2018

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Introduction

The Victorian Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby and New South Wales Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby are pleased to provide a joint submission to the Committee’s inquiry into arrangements for the postal survey.

The NSW Lobby can be contacted at convenors@glrl.org.au

The Victorian Lobby can be contacted at info@vglrl.org.au

NSW Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby

Established in 1988, NSWGLRL is the peak organisation for lesbian and gay rights in NSW. Our mission is to achieve legal equality and social justice for lesbians, gay men and their families.

In 2016, NSWGLRL gave evidence before a Senate Inquiry into the proposed exposure draft of a bill to amend the *Marriage Act* to allow marriage equality, which led to a historic consensus report. Recently, NSWGLRL organised the “Sea of Hearts” event at Parliament House and was involved with Australian Marriage Equality’s campaign to support a YES result.

Victorian Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby

The Victorian Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby ("VGLRL") is a community based advocacy group that works towards equality, social justice and advancing human rights for lesbian, gay, queer, bisexual and same sex attracted Victorians. We work constructively, cooperatively and respectfully with transgender, bisexual, intersex and other organisations that support our organisation's mission and vision.

In 2017, VGLRL also gave evidence before the Senate inquiry into the exposure draft marriage equality bill and was involved with Australian Marriage Equality's campaign to support a YES result.

NSWGLRL provided an interim submission to this committee in 2017. This joint submission with VGLRL builds upon that and reflects developments that have occurred since that time.

Response to the Terms of Reference

(a) What information will be collected and how it will be collected, aggregated and reported

Security and secrecy of “ballots”

1. We note the recent comments from the Prime Minister that the postal survey was a ‘success’ and could be replicated on other issues.¹ However, we have a number of concerns regarding the distribution and security of survey response forms, which some politicians, media organisations and community groups frequently referred to as ballots.
2. There were numerous reports of forms/ballots being hoarded, dumped, destroyed by rain, tampered with and stolen.² There were also concerns raised that shining a torch over the sealed ballot could reveal its contents and posting images of the ballot online could lead to people forging the unique barcode.³
3. Whilst tampering with mail is a criminal offence,⁴ it may be difficult to detect and police. Australia Post did put in place extra security measures during the survey but it is unclear if the Australian Federal Police are investigating any of the reports regarding tampering with mail.⁵ The Privacy Commissioner investigated just one privacy complaint.⁶
4. The postal survey was spoken of as if it were a ballot, including repeated calls from senior politicians and the Prime Minister to “vote” in the survey. To this extent, the public campaign and general perception of the non-binding, voluntary survey was that it was a “vote” not unlike other democratic votes in Australia.
5. Aside from its voluntary nature, there was a critical difference between the postal survey and other votes – the absence of the right to secrecy when ‘voting’.
6. It is a 150 year-old principle of Australian democracy, dating back to 1856 in South Australia, that votes can be cast in secret, enforced by the protection of election officials.⁷ This is known as the ‘secret ballot’ or ‘Australian ballot’ and it is now frequently seen at government elections in Australia and across the globe. Indeed, the commonly accepted definition of “ballot” is that it is a secret vote.
7. The postal survey offered none of these secrecy protections. We have heard a number of stories from community members living in households that ‘voted together’ in Sydney. The experience of some was that a forceful household figure sought to compel other household members to vote a particular way. This presents grave challenges to the democratic integrity and principles of voting in Australia, particularly if postal

¹ Nicole Hasham, “Given the success of the marriage postal survey”, Turnbull flags an Australian republic vote’, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 1 January 2018.

² Simon Thomsen, ‘Australia’s same-sex marriage postal vote is starting to look like a \$122 million shemozzle’, *Business Insider*, 20 September 2017.

³ Liz Burke, ‘ABS warns against posting same-sex marriage survey forms on social media’, *Herald Sun*, 14 September 2017.

⁴ *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth) Sch 1, s 471.

⁵ Lane Sainty & Alice Workman, ‘Australian Post have extra security measures for the same-sex marriage survey’, *BuzzFeed News*, 14 September 2017.

⁶ Australian Electoral Commission, Submission No 5 to Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration, *Inquiry into arrangements for the postal survey*, November 2017, 3.

⁷ National Museum of Australia, ‘Secret ballot introduced’, *Defining Moments in Australian History*, website, accessed 29 January 2018, <www.nma.gov.au/online_features/defining_moments/featured/secret_ballot_introduced>

surveys are increasingly used to inform parliamentary and government decisions on issues.

8. Research has demonstrated the power of conformity and social influences on human decision-making as it relates cultural and political issues.⁸ Upholding the principles of a secret ballot helps to maintain a buffer against peer pressures, respects the rights of the individual, and protects the integrity of the democratic process.

Recommendation: The Committee should consider whether appropriate policing is in place to protect against tampering with mail

Recommendation: The Committee should consider how the democratic integrity of a postal survey could be maintained when the right to vote in secret is not enforced

Confidentiality

9. There were a number of confidentiality concerns raised during the postal survey, including 'the risk of data breaches through hacking or an "insider threat" from officers with access.'⁹ Secrecy provisions are difficult to enforce and have been breached in the past by ABS staff.¹⁰ We are also concerned about the Australian National Audit Office's report identifying risks to the security and integrity of ballot paper data held by the AEC.¹¹ This may have deterred some from voting.
10. According to the ABS, the survey forms should have now been destroyed and 'will not be used for any other purpose outside of the Marriage Survey.'¹²

Recommendation: The Committee should consider whether adequate protections are in place to ensure the security of confidential data held by the ABS and AEC

(c) The legislative basis for the collection and how matters such as advertising, fraud, access to the roll and privacy will be regulated

(e) Protections against offensive, misleading or intimidating material or behaviour, especially towards affected communities

Truth in political advertising

11. In the lead up to and during the postal survey, there was offensive, misleading and intimidating material distributed that affected the lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex ('LGBTI') community. This is documented in submissions from the Equality

⁸ Thaler R & Sunstein C, *Nudge*, 'Cultural Change, Political Change, and Unpredictability', 2009, Yale University Press; Rothschild D & Malhorta N, 'Are public opinion polls self-fulfilling prophecies?', *Research and Politics* (online), vol 1, issue 2, 2014, <<https://doi.org/10.117/2053168014547667>>

⁹ Paul Karp, 'Privacy experts sound alarm over barcodes on marriage equality ballots', *Guardian*, 14 August 2017.

¹⁰ Paul Karp, 'Privacy experts sound alarm over barcodes on marriage equality ballots', *Guardian*, 14 August 2017.

¹¹ Australian National Audit Office, *Australian Electoral Commission's Procurement of Services for the Conduct of the 2016 Federal Election* (22 January 2018).

¹² Australian Bureau of Statistics, Submission No 1 to Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration, *Inquiry into arrangements for the postal survey*, August 2017, 27.

Campaign and the New South Wales Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby.¹³ As the latter submission outlines, the impact of this material on LGBTI people is detrimental.¹⁴

12. Whilst there are provisions against misleading advertising in relation to the casting of a vote,¹⁵ the passing of the *Commonwealth Electoral Legislation Amendment Act 1983* (Cth) enacted the first provision prohibiting untrue advertising. This was repealed the following year.¹⁶ Since then, many have argued that truth in political advertising provisions should be reflected in the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Cth). There was an attempt to do so during the debate that led to the passage of the *Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017*, but it failed.
13. Currently, South Australia and the Northern Territory have state or territory based truth in political advertising laws. In the Northern Territory, section 287(1) of the *Electoral Act 2004* (NT) states that 'a person must not, in an electoral paper, make a statement that is false or misleading in a material particular.' In South Australia, section 113(2) of the *Electoral Act 1985* (SA) states that 'a person who authorises, causes or permits the publication of an electoral advertisement (an "advertiser") is guilty of an offence if the advertisement contains a statement purporting to be a statement of fact that is inaccurate and misleading to a material extent.'

Recommendation: The *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* should be amended to reinstate section 329(2) that prohibited untrue advertising

Authorisation of electoral materials

14. The *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Cth) includes provisions on the authorisation of electoral materials.¹⁷ According to the Australian Electoral Commission ('AEC'), these provisions are intended to 'ensure electors are informed about the source of political advertising... so that electors can know who is responsible for the statements contained in them.'¹⁸
15. Some of the materials cited above were not properly authorised, meaning that recipients cannot clearly identify where the material is coming from.¹⁹ As the submission from the AEC notes, there were over 700 complaints about alleged breaches relating to authorisation of communications.²⁰
16. The Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, in its *Interim report on the authorisation of voter communication*, stated that it 'supports a system of full accountability so that the source of any communication is readily available to the

¹³ Equality Campaign, Submission No 4 to Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration, *Inquiry into arrangements for the postal survey*, 6 September 2017; New South Wales Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby, Submission No 3 to Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration, *Inquiry into arrangements for the postal survey*, 5 September 2017, Appendix 1 and 2.

¹⁴ New South Wales Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby, Submission No 3 to Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration, *Inquiry into arrangements for the postal survey*, 5 September 2017, 5.

¹⁵ *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Cth) s 329(1).

¹⁶ *Electoral and Referendum Amendment Act 1984* (Cth).

¹⁷ *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Cth) ss 328, 328A, 328B, 331, 334.

¹⁸ Australian Electoral Commission, 'Electoral Background No 15' (March 2017).

¹⁹ Heath Aston, 'No' campaign invokes Nelson Mandela and claims same-sex marriage link to school curriculum', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 26 September 2016.

²⁰ Australian Electoral Commission, Submission No 5 to Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration, *Inquiry into arrangements for the postal survey*, November 2017, 3.

elector'²¹ but noted that the rules on authorisation laid down in the Act are 'not always easy to navigate.'²² The Committee made some key recommendations to improve the regulation regarding authorisation of electoral materials. These were reflected in the *Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017*, which recently received Royal Assent.

Recommendation: Following the commencement of the *Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017*, the AEC should actively encourage compliance with the new laws on the authorisation of electoral materials and provide clear information on how complaints may be made against breaches of authorisation requirements

Anti-vilification protections

17. The LGBTI Legal Service of Queensland collected over 220 examples of vilification throughout the postal survey.²³ The GLRL has compiled a number of examples and included them in Appendix 1 to this submission.
18. The *Marriage Law Survey (Additional Safeguards) Act 2017* (Cth) provided that 'a person... must not vilify, intimidate or threaten to cause harm to another person or persons... because of... the religious conviction, sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status of the other person or persons.'²⁴ However, it should be noted that none of the complaints regarding vilification of LGBTI people were prosecuted under this Act.
19. The Act was repealed on 15 November 2017.²⁵ As a result, there are no anti-vilification protections at a federal level for LGBTI people, and state laws vary across jurisdictions.²⁶
20. Laws in themselves are not sufficient to address vilification of LGBTI people. There should be public awareness campaigns condemning it and simple avenues for people affected by vilification to report it; for example, the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission's Anti-Hate campaign.

Recommendation: The anti-vilification provisions in the *Marriage Law Survey (Additional Safeguards) Act 2017* as they relate to sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status should be replicated in the *Sex Discrimination Act 1984*

Recommendation: The Government should fund an anti-vilification campaign to prevent vilification of LGBTI Australians

(d) The integrity of the roll and the potential of disenfranchisement of voters

²¹ Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, Parliament of Australia, *Interim report on the authorisation of voter communication* (2016) 10 [2.22].

²² Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, Parliament of Australia, *Interim report on the authorisation of voter communication* (2016) 13 [2.35].

²³ "Like Love" project reveals hotbed of hate speech throughout marriage survey period', *Community Legal Centres Queensland*, 7 November 2017.

²⁴ *Marriage Law Survey (Additional Safeguards) Act 2017* (Cth) s 15(1)(c).

²⁵ *Marriage Law Survey (Additional Safeguards) Act 2017* (Cth) s 27.

²⁶ New South Wales Gales and Lesbian Rights Lobby, Submission No 3 to Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration, *Inquiry into arrangements for the postal survey*, 5 September 2017, 4 citing Australian Human Rights Commission, *Addressing sexual orientation and sex and/or gender identity discrimination: Consultation report* (2011) 31 [9.1]. See *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977* (NSW) Pt 3A, Div 5; Pt 4C, Div 2; *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991* (Qld) s 124A; *Discrimination Act 1991* (ACT) Pt 6; *Anti-Discrimination Act 1998* (Tas) ss 3, 19.

(f) How issues incurred during the collection will be addressed

People with disabilities voting

21. There were reports of people with intellectual disabilities being denied the opportunity to participate.²⁷ According to the AEC, 28,603 people were removed from the electoral roll on the basis that they were of 'unsound mind' from 2008-2012.²⁸ These people were not able to participate in the postal survey. The process for removing a person from the electoral roll under the 'unsound mind' provisions is that an objection must be lodged, the objection must be accompanied by a medical certificate and a notice of objection must be given to the person whose enrolment has been challenged, proving them with a chance to respond.²⁹
22. The Australian Law Reform Commission ('ALRC'), in its report on *Equality, capacity and disability in Commonwealth laws*, recommended repeal of the 'unsound mind' provisions.³⁰ At the same time, the ALRC recognised arguments for a greater degree of flexibility in the enforcement of compulsory voting,³¹ which might be particularly relevant for people with severe intellectual disabilities who could be subjected to fines for not voting, fines that could accumulate or lead to legal action. Though there is provision for fines not to be issued if the elector had a 'valid and sufficient reason for failing to vote.'³²
23. There were also reports of the 275,000 Australian voters who are blind or vision-impaired having difficulty voting.³³ There are currently provisions for electronically assisted voting for vision-impaired people at elections and referenda,³⁴ and paperless voting options were provided for the postal survey.³⁵
24. The ALRC also recommended that electoral laws be amended to provide greater support for people with a disability when voting.³⁶

Recommendation: The Committee should consider whether sections 93(8)(a) and 118(4) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, which provide that persons of 'unsound mind' are not entitled to have their names on the electoral roll or to vote, should be amended to remove discrimination against people with a disability and assist them with their enrolment and voting obligations

²⁷ Ginger Gorman, 'Victorian woman fighting right to vote in same-sex marriage survey', *news.com.au*, 23 September 2017.

²⁸ Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, Parliament of Australia, *Advisory report on the Electoral and Referendum (Improving Electoral Procedure) Bill 2012 (Cth)* (2012) 29 [2.66].

²⁹ Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, Parliament of Australia, *Advisory report on the Electoral and Referendum (Improving Electoral Procedure) Bill 2012 (Cth)* (2012) 29 [2.65].

³⁰ Australian Law Reform Commission, *Equality, capacity and disability in Commonwealth laws: Final report* (2014) [9.5].

³¹ Australian Law Reform Commission, *Equality, capacity and disability in Commonwealth laws: Final report* (2014) [9.22].

³² *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (Cth) s 245(4)(d).

³³ 'Same-sex marriage postal vote could be inaccessible for 275,000 people', *Media Access Australia*, 16 August 2017.

³⁴ *Electoral and Referendum Regulations 2016* (Cth) Pt 4 Div 1.

³⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics, Submission No 1 to Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration, *Inquiry into arrangements for the postal survey*, August 2017, 9-10.

³⁶ Australian Law Reform Commission, *Equality, capacity and disability in Commonwealth laws: Final report* (2014) [9.39].

Recommendation: Section 234(1) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* should be amended to offer support for all people who may require support when voting

Remote and Aboriginal communities voting

25. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics ('ABS'), postal surveys were posted out to remote locations or held at a collection point with drop-off locations also available in remote areas.³⁷ It is now standard practice for the AEC to set up remote polling booths.³⁸ However, there was some misunderstanding about the meaning of the survey in Aboriginal communities and, despite information on the survey being provided through the media in major Aboriginal languages, ABS staff did not have interpreters with them when they visited remote locations.³⁹
26. The Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters has previously recommended that 'the Australian Electoral Commission provide adequate training and guidelines for polling officials in communicating with Indigenous Australians.'⁴⁰

Recommendation: The Committee should consider appropriate options to increase access to voting for people in remote and Aboriginal communities, including the potential of electronic voting

Recommendation: The Committee should review whether there is appropriate training and guidelines in place for ABS and AEC staff communicating with Aboriginal Australians

Culturally and linguistically diverse people voting

27. There have been reports of a higher informal vote at elections amongst people with a non-English speaking background and, to address this, the AEC provides information in 27 languages on its website.⁴¹ By contrast, the postal marriage survey contained information in only 15 languages.⁴²

Recommendation: The Committee should consider whether there was adequate information provided on the postal survey to people from a non-English speaking background

³⁷ Australian Bureau of Statistics, Submission No 1 to Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration, *Inquiry into arrangements for the postal survey*, August 2017, 17-18.

³⁸ Elliana Lawford, 'Voting kicks off in some of Australia's most remote communities', *ABC News*, 23 June 2016.

³⁹ Stephanie Zillman, 'Same-sex marriage survey forms burned after misunderstanding in Arnhem land', *ABC News*, 5 October 2017.

⁴⁰ Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, Parliament of Australia, *Civics and electoral education: Report* (2007) 106 [5.76].

⁴¹ Michael Kenny, 'Multilingual effort to reduce informal votes', *SBS News*, 26 August 2013.

⁴² Australian Bureau of Statistics, Submission No 1 to Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration, *Inquiry into arrangements for the postal survey*, August 2017, 22.

Young people voting

28. There was some confusion about whether 16 and 17-year-olds would be entitled to vote in the postal survey.⁴³ The Minister later amended the *Census and Statistics (Statistical Information) Direction 2017* (Cth) to clarify that they could not.⁴⁴
29. There is support for reducing the voting age,⁴⁵ including from the Labor Opposition and the Greens Party.⁴⁶ Professor George Williams has recommended to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters that the vote should be extended to 16 and 17-year-olds on a voluntary basis.⁴⁷ There was an attempt to do so during the debate that led to the passage of the *Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017*, but it failed.

Recommendation: The Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters should consider arguments on lowering the voting age

AEC website 'crash'

30. During the enrolment period in mid-August, it appeared that the AEC website had crashed with the AEC explaining that the 'connectivity issues... may be due to the external promotion of an incorrect website link'⁴⁸ and further that the promotion of the link was 'by a third party unassociated with the AEC.'⁴⁹ However, the AEC website has previously crashed during enrolment periods.⁵⁰ During the postal survey, 'the AEC significantly increased the amount of computing resources hosting the AEC's websites.'⁵¹

Recommendation: The Committee should consider whether there are adequate computing resources hosting the AEC and ABS websites

(h) All aspects of the conduct of the collection and related matters

Mental health

31. The LGBTI community and its lobby groups have always been of the view that 'a public vote on marriage equality is unnecessary, costly and potentially harmful to young and/or vulnerable LGBTIQ people and should not be supported.'⁵² This was borne out during the campaign.

⁴³ Osman Faruqi, 'Legal experts say the Govt definitely fucked up their postal survey', *Junkee*, 15 August 2017.

⁴⁴ *Census and Statistics (Statistical Information) Amendment Direction 2017* (Cth).

⁴⁵ Osman Faruqi, 'Legal experts say the Govt definitely fucked up their postal survey', *Junkee*, 15 August 2017.

⁴⁶ Alice Workman, 'Greens want 16 and 17-year-olds to vote in the same-sex marriage plebiscite', *BuzzFeed News*, 17 August 2016.

⁴⁷ Professor George Williams, Submission No 19 to Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, *Inquiry into and report on all aspects of the conduct of the 2016 Federal Election and matters related thereto*, October 2016, 2.

⁴⁸ Rachel Eddie, 'AEC website confusion ahead of same-sex marriage postal vote', *The New Daily*, 10 August 2017.

⁴⁹ Australian Electoral Commission, Submission No 5 to Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration, *Inquiry into arrangements for the postal survey*, November 2017, 5.

⁵⁰ AAP, 'AEC website crashes in roll rush', *Daily Telegraph*, 19 June 2010.

⁵¹ Australian Electoral Commission, Submission No 5 to Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration, *Inquiry into arrangements for the postal survey*, November 2017, 5.

⁵² Victorian Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby, Submission No 29 to Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, *Matter of a public vote, in the form of a plebiscite or referendum, on the matter of marriage in Australia*, September 2015, 6.

32. There has been considerable debate about the mental health toll of the postal survey on young and/or vulnerable LGBTI people. Mental health services have reported a 40% increase in people seeking support during and after the survey, forcing them to divert resources from other critical mental health services.⁵³

Recommendation: The Government should urgently fund mental health services to support vulnerable LGBTI people, young and old, against the psychological harm of denigration and insult

(i) Proposals for use of the information obtained, including to inform future legislation

Interpreting results

33. Following the announcement of the results of the postal survey, there was considerable debate over the results in electorates in western Sydney.⁵⁴ A number of proposals have been forward to address this, including more actively engaging with and supporting LGBTI leaders in ethnic communities.⁵⁵ However, demographer Dr Liz Allen has cautioned against assumptions that western Sydney voters do not support marriage equality, suggesting that responses to surveys are usually to maintain the status quo and that campaigning in the area is unlikely to have influenced survey responses.⁵⁶
34. In any case, we should not be scapegoating ethnic communities.

Recommendation: The Committee should actively consider voices from ‘no’ voting electorates, especially LGBTI voices, during its deliberations

Protection of human rights

35. The passage of the *Marriage Amendment (Definition and Religious Freedoms) Act 2017* (Cth) led to the formation of the Religious Freedoms Review.
36. There is a need for greater protection of LGBTI human rights, including protection against discrimination from religious organisations, and appropriate recommendations to achieve this will be addressed through our submissions to the Review.

⁵³ Adam Gartrell, ‘Mental health service calls for plan to deal with same-sex marriage survey damage’, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 13 November 2017.

⁵⁴ Dallas Rogers, ‘Don’t blame western Sydney for its No vote’, *ABC News*, 15 November 2017; Rachael Jacobs & Denise Hamad, ‘Why western Sydney voted “no” to marriage equality’, *Huffington Post*, 20 November 2017; Rashida Yosufzai, ‘Majority of no voters from western Sydney’, *SBS News*, 16 November 2017; Daniel Piotrowski, ‘Why Labor-supporting western Sydney voted “no” to same-sex marriage in huge numbers – with migrant Chinese and Muslim communities against any change’, *Daily Mail Australia*, 15 November 2017; Andrew Jakubowicz, ‘How social conservatism among ethnic communities drove a strong “no” vote in western Sydney’, *The Conversation*, 15 November 2017; Hussain Nadim, ‘Why western Sydney voted “no”’, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 16 November 2017.

⁵⁵ Rachael Jacobs & Denise Hamad, ‘Why western Sydney voted “no” to marriage equality’, *Huffington Post*, 20 November 2017.

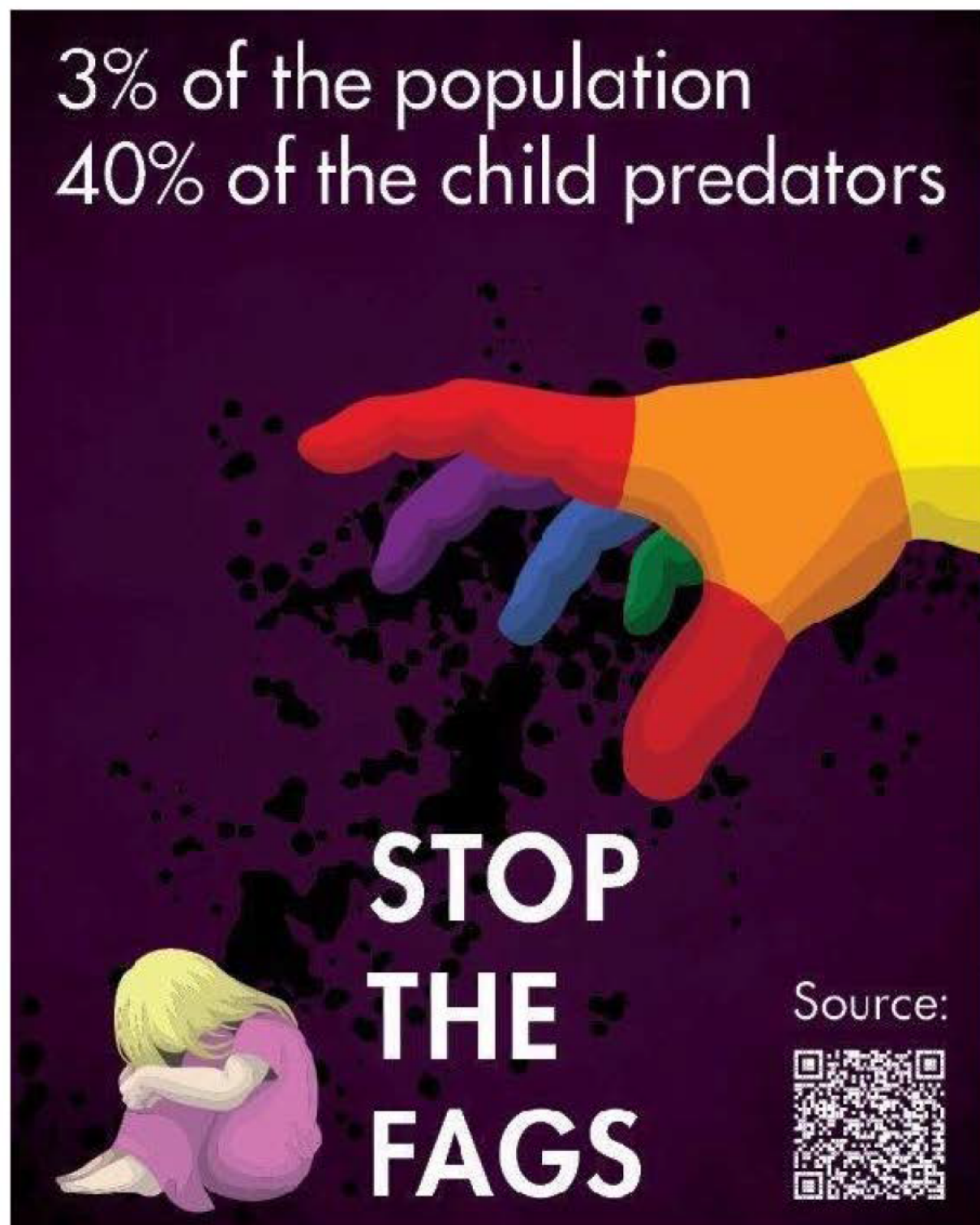
⁵⁶ Rashida Yosufzai, ‘Majority of no voters from western Sydney’, *SBS News*, 16 November 2017.

Appendix Materials

This material includes vilifying content targeted at members of the public and the respective Lobby's. It includes material previously submitted by the GLRL in its interim submission to the Committee in 2017, and new material.

Appendix 1: Examples of Advertising Submitted to GLRL





3% of the population
55% of HIV carriers
82% of syphilis cases
20% of HBV cases
37% of anal cancer
78% have an STD



STOP THE FAGS

All data is gathered from
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Evolutionist or Creationist? Do you believe in the Bible?

Gay, unloved, depressed? Are you prepared to take an interest in Scientology?

Send 20 'old school personalised' photocopies of this letter to friends for Christmas – not Facebook. Christmas is the time of the *Lord*.

Gay people can be normalised by *reasoning* with them.

The Bible tells that God created humans in the Garden of Eden and He intended them to be heterosexual beings free of mental illness. Or, if you are an evolutionist you will accept that God created animals. Therefore by this *reasoning* humans evolved from animals. There are no gay animals.

Creationist or Evolutionist something is wrong when people go after their own sex romantically or lustfully. With respect – homosexuality is a *dis-ease*; an illness.

Before 'political correctness' the definition of homosexuality was a mental illness.

Scientology cures mental illness through auditing and toning. Scientology holds that problem people were placed here on earth from outer space. Earth was a dumping ground for the galactic warrior *Lord Xenu*. Homosexuality is a past life engram from 75 million years ago. Your illness can be cured. You can be happy.

Scientology prevents gay suicides. Scientology has cured many gay people, including 'celebrities': Scientology Celebrity Centre International, Los Angeles.

There is much misinformation about Scientology in popular culture:

In 2012 a book was published about Sydney titled:

117 BPM Beats, Bashings and HIV Dementia.

The anti-hero, a former Scientologist Dark Damien leads a gang around Sydney. The story perpetuates stereotypes and myths about gays, HIV/AIDS, transsexuals, mental illness and Asians. 117 BPM claims Asians came from another planet – that's right – we all did! (Xenu.net) You can read the Bible or you can read Dianetics by L. Ron Hubbard. Homosexuality can be cured:

Dianetics is free to read at any library or call personally at 201 Castlereagh Street for a free personality test. Check Xenu.net. Scientology is building a new super centre at Chatswood. You are welcome. Start your real life and be happy.





呼吁国民投票反对同性婚姻合法化！

同性恋是断子绝孙的死亡诅咒！

同性恋的肛交性行为，是制造和传播艾滋病毒的根源！

同性恋是悲哀，是家族的坟墓、是绝后的咒诅！

※. 如果同性婚姻被合法化，对女性的人生安全将会造成极大的恐慌和危害。因为公共女厕和女浴室再没有男女之分，变性假女人受到法律的保护，可以合法使用，包括学校。这样就会让社会上的不法之徒强奸犯有机可乘，假扮成变性人混入男性禁地。

可想而知，公共女厕和女浴室将会成为女士被强暴的场地了。世界上通过了同性婚姻合法化的国家，发生女性在公共女厕和浴室被强暴的案例惊人。

务要投票坚决反对同性婚姻合法化！

切勿招惹断子绝孙的咒诅！

请注意：政府在 2017 年 9 月 12 号开始寄出对同性婚姻立法的公投选票，请投票人在 2017 年 11 月 7 号前必须寄回！

（请把这信息放在微信群转发，呼吁华人同心合力捍卫一男一女的婚姻家庭，以投反对票保护我们的下一代！）

Urging Australian to cast a vote and say "NO" to Same Sex Marriage Legislation !!!

Homosexuality is a curse of death in terminating the family line and without decedents!

The sexual behaviour of anal sex among some homosexuals is one of the main source of HIV/AIDS transmission !

Homosexuality is a tragedy of a family, a grave to the family bloodline, a curse of family sonlessness!

※. If Same Sex Marriage legislation is passed, it would be a threat to the safety of women, creating great fear and harm to them. For by then, there would be no separate public toilets, change rooms or shower rooms for the male and female, the transsexual "counterfeit" women will be protected under the law, to enter the female toilets including those at schools legally. This may give rise to the rapists who may masquerade as a "transsexual woman" sneaking into the public "forbidden land" for men, these places may then become easy sports for rapists to target a woman victim. The number of victims being raped in public female changing rooms and bathrooms in those countries that has passed the Same Sex Marriage Legislation is a stunning fact to all!

Please be firm and vote "NO" to the Same Sex Marriage Legislation!

Provoke not the curse of terminating the family bloodline and without decedents!

Please note : The government will start sending the plebiscite ballot paper for Same Sex Marriage legislation on September 12, 2017. Your vote must be returned before November 7, 2017.

同性婚姻合法與平權沒有關係

同性婚姻的支持者們選用“婚姻平等”一詞，讓人看起來覺得同性伴侶是歧視的受害者。而事實根本不是這樣。在2008年，澳大利亞政府修改了85項法律，以確保同性伴侶與其他任何已婚或未婚的長期伴侶有著同等的權利。在澳大利亞，無論是醫療保健、金融或財產權利，或者親屬身份等方面，法律沒有任何對同性伴侶的不公歧視。

現在是“沉默大多數”發聲的時候了。為了我們的子孫後代，請對同性婚姻投“不”。
訪問www.acfam.org.au以獲取更多中文信息，并可訂閱我們的免費郵件新聞。

For English information, visit the official website of the “No” campaign:
www.coalitionformarriage.com.au

如果您想成為志願者，請發郵件到admin@acfam.org.au與我們聯繫。



澳洲華人家庭守护联盟
Australian Chinese for Families
acfam.org.au
admin@acfam.org.au

重新定義婚姻將使我們的社會承擔嚴重的後果。為了我們的子孫後代，請向同性婚姻合法化投“不”。

問題：

“我們是否應當修改法律來允許同性伴侶結婚？”

是

否 (✓)

“Should the law be changed to allow same-sex couples to marry?”



關鍵日期與重要信息：

1. 從9月12日起，本次郵政公投的選票將會被郵寄到您網上登記的地址。所有選票的寄達可能需要好幾天的時間。

2. 盡可能多的人投反對票是非常關鍵的。

3. 填好的選票需要在11月7日前寄回。

我們都有權知道



同性婚姻合法化的真正後果



有不少人覺得，同性婚姻合法化只影響小部分爭取結婚的同性戀者，不會影響其他任何人。

其實並非如此。

當我們改變幾千年來人類社會的基石——婚姻與家庭的定義，這對社會的影響將是巨大的。

同性婚姻合法化剝奪家長的權利

在同性婚姻已經合法化的國家，政府會強制廣泛推行像“安全學校計劃”類的教育，家長並沒有權力阻止。

從婚姻法中移除性別，會導致性別在社會中被廣泛地重新定義。

安全學校計劃對孩子們進行不適當的性教育，教導未成年孩子探索他們的性取向，過渡到毫無科學根據的性別理論——告訴孩子們他們的性別與生理毫無關係。



同性婚姻合法化威脅言論和信仰自由

在同性合法的國家，有員工僅僅因為表達了自己“婚姻屬於一男一女”的個人信念而被公司或政府部門解僱。

小營企業則因為個人信仰阻止他們選擇參加同性婚禮而被拖到法庭上，為繼續生存苦苦掙扎。

同性婚姻倡導者已經告訴我們：他們並不關心其他人的平等，他們想用“反歧視法”控告每一個因個人、文化、或宗教理由支持一男一女婚姻的人。



同性婚姻剝奪孩子擁有親生父親和母親的權利。我們都知道，一個家庭的破裂是慘痛的事情，在這個過程中最受傷害的是孩子們。雖然我們需要面對現實中的確有一些家庭因各種慘痛的原因而分裂，但是政府特意立法使孩子們失去父親或母親是完全不同的另一回事。同性婚姻的鼓吹者們常常引用所謂的“調查研究”，斷言同性家長養育的孩子各方面表現與異性家長的孩子毫無差別。然而這些研究的設計或方法裏都含有不少缺陷，讓它們無法成為可靠的數據。

同時，數十年來的高標準研究證明，由自己的親生、已婚父母養育，最有利於孩子的發展。

讓我們傾聽來自同性家庭孩子的心聲：

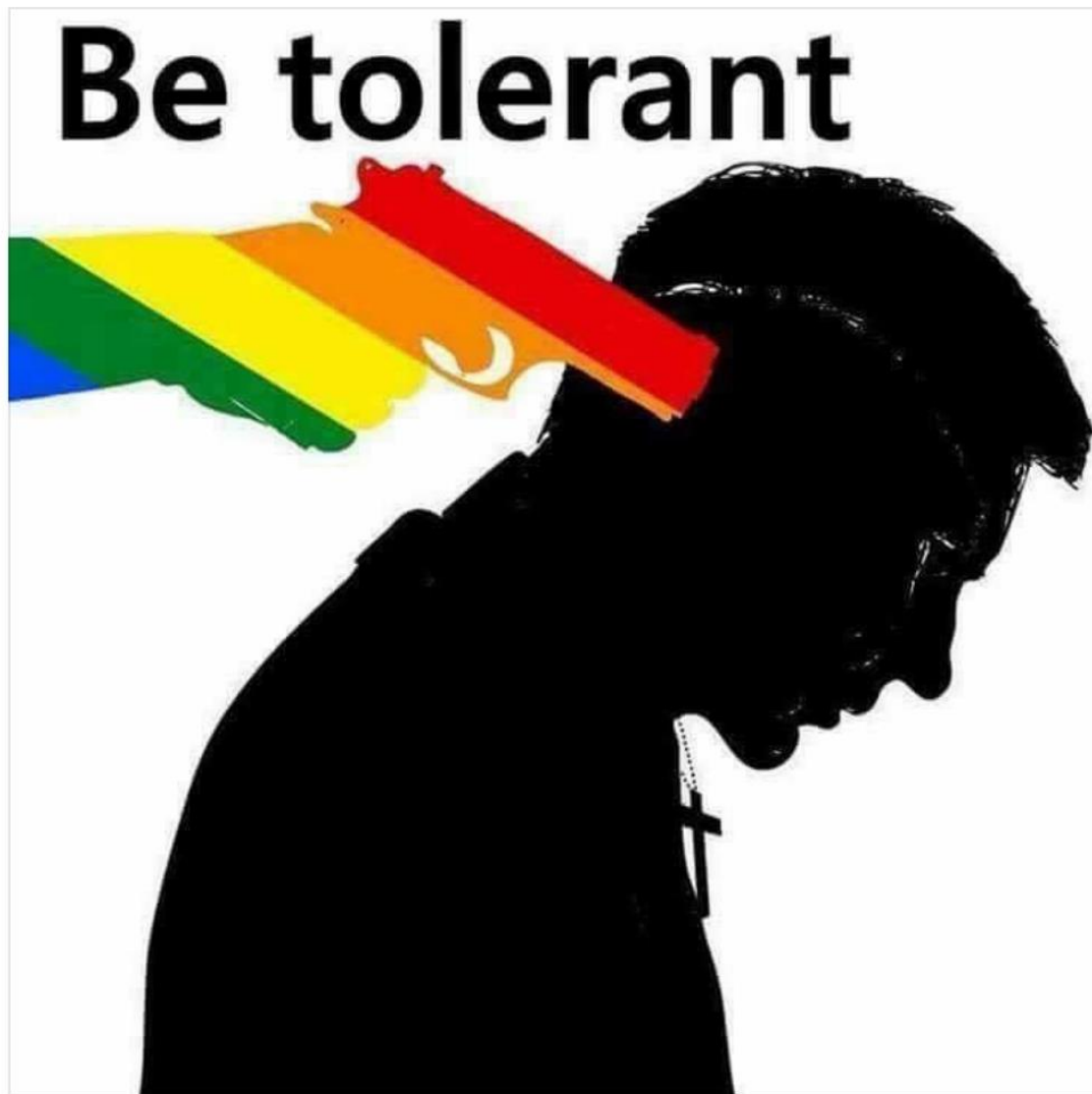
“這是一種奇怪而讓人迷惑的感覺——你在大人間行走，內心深處帶著難以磨滅的痛——對擁有一個父親的渴望……”

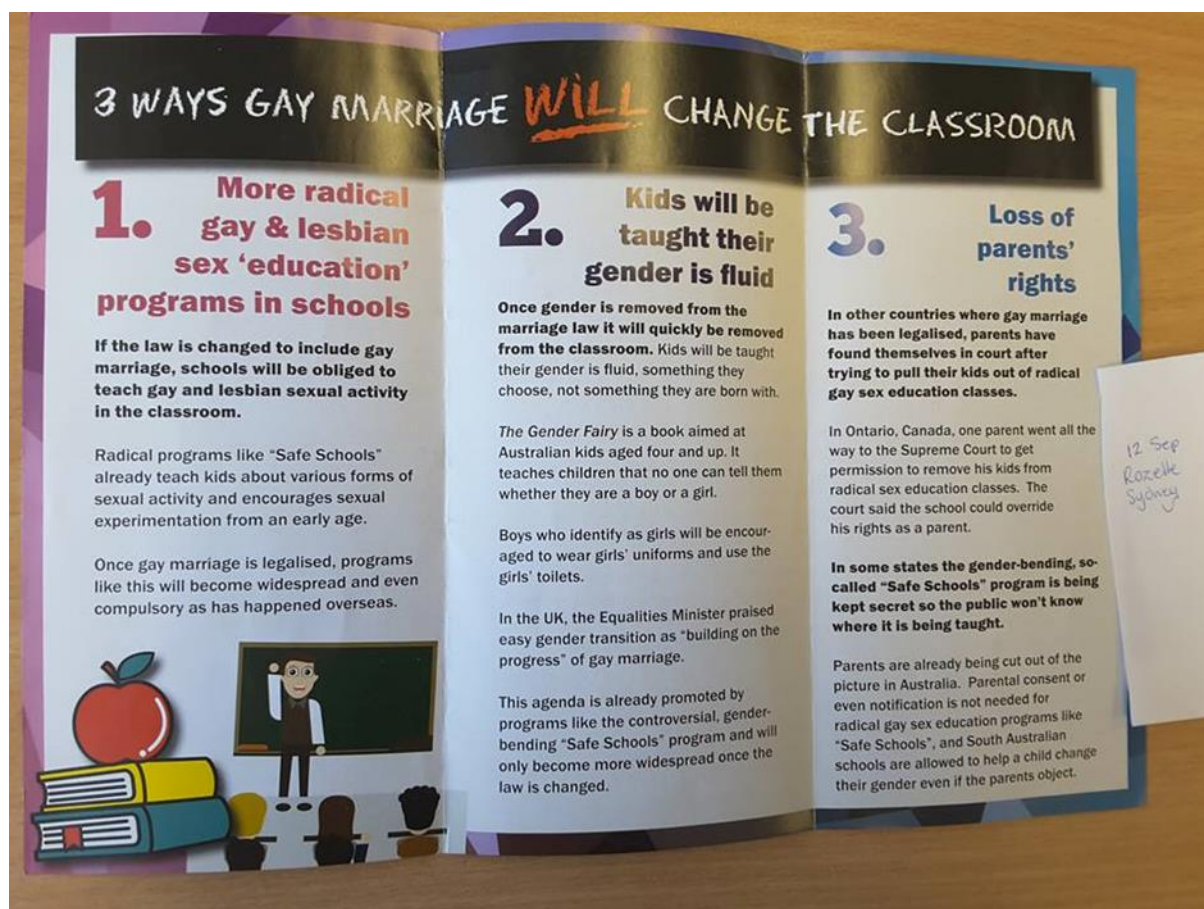
Heather Barwick，兩位女同性戀者的女兒
(Barwick, Heather, "Two Gay Communities Your Kids Are Growing Up In", The Advocate, 17 March 2011, <http://theadvocate.com/2011/03/17/dont-gay-community-your-kids-are-growing-up-in/>)



Kaly Faust: “(同性婚姻合法化)……告訴兒童，他們無權擁有自然家庭或者親生父母，他們的存在僅僅是為了滿足成人欲望的需要。”

(Faust, Kaly, "New 14-2015F - Amicus Brief of Kaly Faust in support of 'Defendants' - United States Court of Appeals, 15 August 2014, <https://www.corbido.com/document/2105222/1/Kaly-Faust-Amicus-Brief>)





Appendix 2: Examples of Direct Communication to GLRL and Posts on GLRL Social Media Pages

Message Subject: Gay rights to marriage.

Enter Your Message: What a BUNCH OF ARSE HOLES YOU ARE.

Threatening the church.

Leave the churches alone.

THEY SHOULD HAVE A CHOICE just Like You.

A Man and a Woman in Marriage is the way it is supposed to be.

This has been going on for THOUSANDS OF YEARS.

What you are PUSHING FOR IS WRONG.

MAN and WOMAN is a MARRIAGE.

Not Michael fits Patrick and Patrick fits Michael.

You deserve whatever HAPPENS TO YOU.

If You Go ANYWHERE Near My Daughters School YOU SHOULD START LOOKING OVER
YOUR SHOULDERS BECAUSE OF WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN.

Time: August 28, 2017 at 7:49 pm

IP Address:

Contact Form URL: <https://glrl.org.au/contact/>

Sent by an unverified visitor to your site.

9:37 PM

Stop and ban the aids infested faggots stop sucking cock you filth bags and you wont be faggots and stop sticking your filthy cocks up assholes their meant for shit to come out faggots and dikes make me sick in the stomach get back in your diseased toilet bowl closet

9:41 PM

Thanks for taking the time to message,
Your hate speech has been reported
to the police.

My apologies for that message that was sent to you my sent son got into my phone that kind of language is unacceptable and i support marriage equality as i said iam deeply sorry for that message that was sent to you



[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · August 22 at 1:30am



Patrick Daniels Thank you Raylene Herrington..I am an avid watcher of the Bolt report..I remember this story where some guy posted something for the NO side and FB took his post down..now that is bias when FB should be taking a neutral stance and giving everyone a say and a voice..for sure my vote will be NOOO!!! not for anything else..just simply because 11% of the population have tried to bully and brow beat the majority 89%

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 1 · August 22 at 3:37am



Damian Herrington Joey Law which human rights are being denied? Because the fundamental human right to both a mother & a father will be denied if the definition of marriage is mutated to include same sex unions. Why are your rights more important than other people's?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · August 22 at 6:56am



Tristan Butler Patrick, I'm sorry you felt my reply was long-winded. I thought it best to go into some detail since I wasn't sure which rights of yours you thought were being challenged. I see you haven't engaged with that part of what I said so I can only assume you... [See More](#)

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 2 · August 22 at 7:07am



Tristan Butler Damian, firstly, there is no fundamental human right to both a mother and a father. If there were, we would have to legislate against single parents, not to mention divorce. Secondly, allowing any two legally consenting adults to marry regardless of ge... [See More](#)

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 3 · August 22 at 7:14am



Taylor Bartels Joey Law and Tristan Butler, you're my heroes ❤️

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · August 22 at 8:11pm



Jim Paliouras Matthew Meinema no such thing as winning the popular vote in the US,! Myth!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · August 25 at 10:17pm



Sharran Franklin Patrick Daniels I have no idea where they get the idea that the majority will vote yes!! All the comments I hear locally is NO!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · August 25 at 10:28pm




Write a reply...





Steve Dawes Voting no will have no affect on future laws so to say it wont lead to bestiality or incest is misguided being gay is normal now but never used to be so it can change the way it has for gays


[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 2 · August 20 at 5:40pm


 **Steve Dawes** Voting no will have no affect on future laws so to say it wont lead to bestiality or incest is misguided being gay is normal now but never used to be so it can change the way it has for gays
Like · Reply · Message · 2 · August 20 at 5:40pm


^ Hide 28 Replies


 **Matthew White** But it won't in itself make any change. One can't say society won't ever change in a particular way, but one can say a particular action won't change it. You could get those things without gay marriage, for example.
Like · Reply · Message · 2 · August 20 at 6:18pm


 **Steve Dawes** But my point is being gay was totally unacceptable and now its openly accepted so why wont that happen to other things
Like · Reply · Message · 2 · August 20 at 6:22pm


 **Matthew White** Why won't it? It might, it might not. But this won't cause it. Like saying voting no on gay marriage will lead to insider trading being legalised.
Like · Reply · Message · 3 · August 20 at 6:42pm

 **Steven Benbrook** Perhaps people realised that loving someone with the same private part as yourself wasn't such a big deal? To compare bestiality and incest to marriage equality is just a reflection on your lack of intelligence. Those are issues that will never be acceptable, or ethical. TWO ADULTS who wish to gain legal rights and recognition is in no way wrong, or comparable to your claims. Fucks sake.
Like · Reply · Message · 9 · August 20 at 7:53pm · Edited

 **Troy Young** Steven Benbrook
But incest is "TWO ADULTS who wish to gain legal rights and recognition"
Like · Reply · Message · August 20 at 11:36pm · ✓

 **Joey Law** Cause that's exactly what happened to all the other countries that have legalised it. You're an idiot Steve.
Like · Reply · Message · 3 · August 21 at 12:06am

 **Matt Fisher** The no side always says it will lead to bestiality. And it never, ever does. Canada, the U.K., the US...is bestiality legal in any of those places?
Idiot.
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · August 21 at 12:22am

 **Damon Macdonald** Hold on. If two consenting adults want to get married is that not marriage equality?

If so why are we saying love is love and equal rights for marriage and etc for the lgbti community why is that support not the same for an

 **Craig Munnings** All so very true.... the sky won't fall in.... just vote "yes" and get it over and done with.... it's just embarrassing that we are one of the few "civilised" countries that doesn't have marriage equality!!!
Like · Reply · Message · 18 · August 20 at 5:29pm
5 Replies

 **Brendan R Burman-Bellenger** It's really sad that people use incest and especially bestiality as an argument against gay marriage. Do they honestly think that or are they so desperate for something to scare us away they're willing to throw such vile and untrue arguments out
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · August 20 at 5:59pm

 **Troy Holt** Only the YES campaign use that. The NO campaign wants to advise you to listen to what people say when you hear the phrase "Marriage Equality" It means that all marriages are equal like child bride marriage (pedophilia) and polygamy marriage. These wil... [See More](#)
Like · Reply · Message · August 20 at 7:12pm

 **Brendan R Burman-Bellenger** Yeah.. no.
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · August 20 at 8:20pm

Troy Young's comment was marked as spam. [Show comment](#)

 **Nicola Syme** Troy Holt haha you can't be serious!!! 😂
Like · Reply · Message · August 24 at 7:20am

 **Adel Hassen** Truth hurts mate.
Like · Reply · Message · August 25 at 6:30pm

 **Brendan R Burman-Bellenger** I have a feeling you don't know what that word means Adel.
Like · Reply · Message · August 25 at 6:51pm

 Write a reply...

 **Angela Ayres** Yes for me , gays have a right to be just as miserable as us married heterosexuals 😊
Like · Reply · Message · 29 · August 20 at 4:28pm · Edited

 **Alex Cameron** To all those saying they are voting No. If you have kids and they turned out to be gay would not want them to be able to grow up and have the same rights as everyone one else and have the right to be married and live a happy life?
Or are you're so small minded that you'd disown your child for being gay
Like · Reply · Message · 2 · August 20 at 9:36pm
Hide 13 Replies

 **Shane Watson** I'd force my kids not to be gay! It's fucking gross
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · August 20 at 9:54pm

 **Sarah Prattki** Lovely, Shane. You are aware of the suicide rates of gay children of people like yourself, yes?
Like · Reply · Message · 6 · August 20 at 11:26pm

 **Joey Law** It's people like you Shane who don't deserve to be parents.
Like · Reply · Message · 4 · August 21 at 12:31am

 **Kyle Harrison** Then Shane I hope for the child's sake you don't have children.
Like · Reply · Message · 5 · August 21 at 1:52am

 **Kate Mccann** Thank goodness for parents like you Sarah Prattki!!
Like · Reply · Message · 2 · August 21 at 7:53am

 **Aaron Brown** They have the same rights already haha they can marry the oppposite sex like everyone else
.. you are so "un accepting " of the way things are .
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · August 21 at 7:54am

 **Aaron Brown** Just accept that 2 dicks are gross STOP telling yourself its acceptable
Like · Reply · Message · 3 · August 21 at 7:55am

 **Joey Law** Why don't you stop obsessing over the sexual aspect and focus on the love between two people? Oh, wait! You'd rather be a hateful little bigot!
Like · Reply · Message · 3 · August 21 at 4:50pm

 **Kuromi Akumura** Shane Watson you can't force someone not to be gay YN like how you can't force a straiht person to be gay. How is it

Aaron Brown They have the same rights already haha they can marry the oppersite sex like everyone else
.. you are so "un accepting " of the way things are .
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · August 21 at 7:54am

Aaron Brown Just accept that 2 dicks are gross STOP telling yourself its acceptable
Like · Reply · Message · 3 · August 21 at 7:55am

Joey Law Why don't you stop obsessing over the sexual aspect and focus on the love between two people? Oh, wait! You'd rather be a hateful little bigot!
Like · Reply · Message · 3 · August 21 at 4:50pm

Kuromi Akumura Shane Watson you can't force someone not to be gay XD like how you can't force a straight person to be gay. How is it gross anyway m? Why is heterosexuality not gross
Like · Reply · Message · August 23 at 9:13pm

Kuromi Akumura Aaron Brown what about two vaginas ? That isn't gross just because you fap to it right
Like · Reply · Message · August 23 at 9:14pm

Shane Watson I don't deserve to be a parent!!!! Why because I would be a father and my wife would be a mother. That's normal fucking parents you idiot. 🤔🤔
Like · Reply · Message · August 23 at 9:16pm

Joey Law Reread your comment Shane. Then reread mine. And I'm sure, if you put your little mind to work REALLY REALLY hard, you'll work out why you don't deserve to be a parent. Moron.
Like · Reply · Message · August 23 at 9:41pm

Sean Alexander Poor Shane.
Like · Reply · Message · August 24 at 9:56am

Write a reply...

Craig Munnings All so very true..... the sky won't fall in.... just vote "yes" and get it over and done with..... it's just embarrassing that we are one of the few "civilised" countries that doesn't have marriage equality!!!

5 Replies

Brendan R Burman-Bellenger It's really sad that people use incest and especially bestiality as an argument against gay marriage. Do they honestly think that or are they so desperate for something to scare us away they're willing to throw such vile and untrue arguments out
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · August 20 at 5:59pm

Troy Holt Only the YES campaign use that. The NO campaign wants to advise you to listen to what people say when you hear the phrase " Marriage Equality" It means that all marriages are equal like child bride marriage (pedophilia) and polygamy marriage. These will be next on the EQUALITY narrative. Don't be fooled into thinking that this won't happen. We've already had muslims in this country ask for their equality when it comes to polygamy marriage. Child bride marriage will be next.
Like · Reply · Message · August 20 at 7:12pm

Brendan R Burman-Bellenger Yeah.. no.
Like · Reply · Message · 1 · August 20 at 8:20pm

Troy Young Brendan R Burman-Bellenger Except it going to happen It already is in places that have gay marriage
Like · Reply · Message · August 20 at 11:38pm ·

Nicola Syme Troy Holt haha you can't be serious!!! 😂
Like · Reply · Message · August 24 at 7:20am

Aadel Hassen Truth hurts mate.
Like · Reply · Message · August 25 at 6:30pm

Brendan R Burman-Bellenger I have a feeling you don't know what that word means Aadel.
Like · Reply · Message · August 25 at 6:51pm

Write a reply...

Angela Ayres Yes for me , gays have a right to be just as miserable as us married heterosexuals 😊
Like · Reply · Message · 29 · August 20 at 4:28pm · Edited

5 Replies

Luke Brailey Very informative. Whilst I won't be voting yes or no on the ballot because I don't believe it is our job to be voting on legislation, that's why we elect 226 lawmakers in both Houses in Canberra, not quite sure how two blokes or two women going to a re... See More

Toni Brown I'm voting yes because it's the right thing to do and it's about bloody time!
Like · Reply · Message · 37 · August 20 at 3:37pm

3 Replies

Cesare Silveri If only they could make the vote more gender specific...I'd vote yes to lesbian marriage as women being intimate is a turn on...but poofs being intimate make me puke! Hahaaha
Like · Reply · Message · 7 · August 20 at 6:47pm

Steven Benbrook Reading this made me puke you absolute seedy bastard.
Like · Reply · Message · 7 · August 20 at 7:41pm · Edited

Zanna Winchester Lagann I was expecting this to be some 15 year old boy. But you're a seedy 50/60 something year old. You probably hit on under age girls as well with that attitude. 🤔🤔 you're allowed to be a perverted creep. But boy oh boy we better not let two consenting **verb, consenting give permission for something to happen** adults get married. That's just disgusting

P.s. Thought I should add what the word consenting means because I'm guessing you don't know it.
Like · Reply · Message · 5 · August 20 at 7:40pm

Antonio Gambale OK cool then. So whatever turns you on when flipping through a Hustler magazine is worthy of human rights, the rest can fuck off and die. Good to know!
Like · Reply · Message · 3 · August 20 at 7:56pm

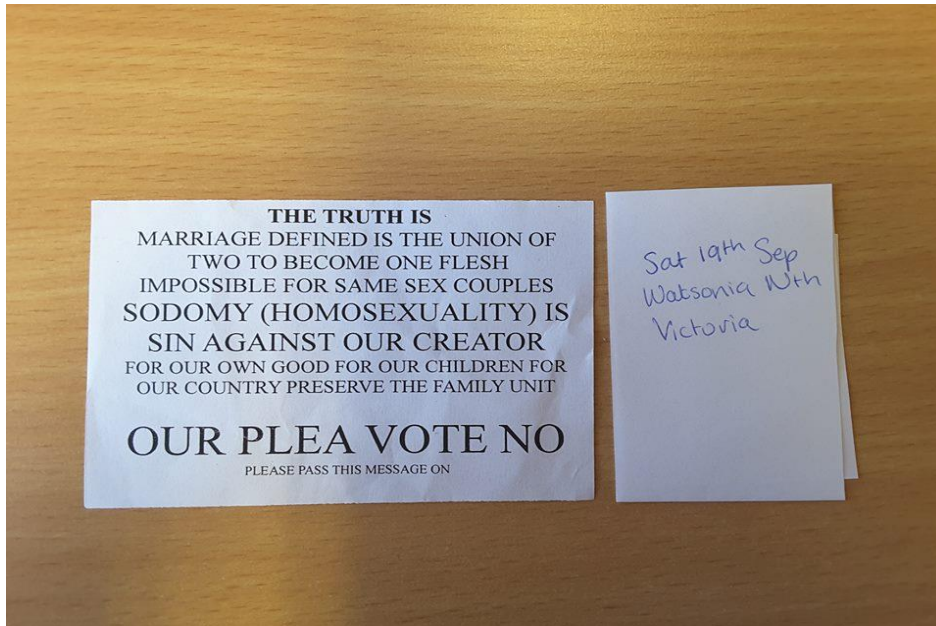
Georgia Kate Lesbians aren't here for your entertainment you suckhole
Like · Reply · Message · 6 · August 20 at 7:59pm

Shane Watson Your a bloody legend 🤔
Like · Reply · Message · 2 · August 20 at 9:53pm

Cesare Silveri Most typical responses from homo's...no sense of humour! Ahahaha!
Like · Reply · Message · August 22 at 8:35am

Jacob Brodie Then don't be intimate with poofs, you moron.
Like · Reply · Message · August 22 at 8:10pm

Write a reply...



VOTE NO.

Same sex marriage should never be legalised in this country of ours but unfortunately it probably will.

Under the faith of God and the Churches marriage is between a woman and a man. Guy men are nothing but feminine, sick, poof, faggot mental bastards and should have no place in society, put them all on a isolated Island, watching men holding hands and kissing on TV makes my stomach turn sick.

What they do between them sexual wise in life is nothing but a unnatural, dirty, filthy, unhealthy, unhygiene homosexual act, no wonder our society has changed in so many ways.

If people in society think that two men sharing each other up the a [redacted] is natural and healthy, then people who vote yes are sick, sick mental bastards themselves. The arse is not meant to be abused in that way, and you wonder why so much Aids is around in our society today.

And to all the fat over weight Lesbians who let them selves go, thats why they turn Lesbian, because no man would want them.

You wonder why our kids today are suicidal, have pshchogical problems in life, and getting into trouble with the Law, and are so f [redacted] in the head, because some of them either have two Mums or two Dads, what ever happened to a good healthy marriage in the family home with a Mum and a Dad, that unfortunately has gone, God help us all. I feel sorry for the kids today, having same sex parents, poor little bastards, must be so embarrassing for them bring friends home from School to see their mate either has two Mums or two Dads.

In the Arab Countries they stone homosexuals to death, and so they should.

This Country is now f [redacted] in so many ways by silly Laws like this.

VOTE No.