

MEDIA RELEASE

Statement on marriage equality

21 September 2017

Murray PHN (Primary Health Network) holds our core values of leadership, collaboration, knowledge, innovation and accountability at the heart of our organisation.

Murray PHN firmly believes in the right of all people to experience their lives and relationships fully and without discrimination.

Primary health networks are charged with addressing inequities and disadvantage in primary health care and coordination. We know that members of the LGBTIQ community experience mental health issues and suicide attempts at greater rates than the rest of our community.

We support marriage equality – the right of all adult Australians to access marriage as a civil institution with their partner of choice, irrespective of gender or sexual orientation.

Murray PHN:

- believes that there are real and significant mental and physiological health impacts arising from structural discrimination, and we support moves to eliminate discrimination in all its forms.
- supports policy and action that promotes the acceptance and the celebration of healthy, safe and respectful relationships in all of their diversity.
- believes that every Australian should have the same rights under law, including the same right for any adult and their consenting adult partner, to have their relationship recognised under the Marriage Act 1961.
- supports the maintenance and enforcement of current anti-discrimination laws to ensure that businesses cannot withhold goods or services from clients due to their gender or sexual orientation.
- encourages respect for individuals with differing views.

Murray PHN's CEO, Matt Jones, said the organisation worked closely with all of our communities – including our LGBTIQ communities – to improve health and wellbeing through strong, accessible and equitable primary health care.

“We understand that the impact of feeling marginalised can be detrimental to the mental and physical health of people of all ages, particularly in rural and remote areas,” Mr Jones said.

“Our Board and Executive have reflected on the evidence produced by the Australian Medical Association in their Position Statement on Marriage Equality and feel that it is important that Murray PHN, as an independent not-for-profit organisation, make its position clear.”

Contact details

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NOTES:

Anyone experiencing difficulty can contact QLife, a free, anonymous, LGBTIQ counselling and support service, 3pm-midnight daily, on **1800 184 527** or web chat **qlife.org.au**

Australian Medical Association – Position on Marriage Equality

<https://ama.com.au/position-statement/marriage-equality-2017>