

APS Letter to Editors on Marriage Equality and the Postal Vote

Dear Editors

In response to recent coverage of the Marriage Law Postal Vote and the divisive discussion that has resulted, the Australian Psychological Society confirms its support for marriage equality. To deny groups within Australian society access to legal marriage is against the fundamental tenets of the APS Code of Ethics and the human rights of LGBTQI+ people.

Psychological research provides no evidence that would justify refusing same-sex partners the choice to marry, but there is ample evidence that such discrimination contributes significantly to the risk of mental ill-health among LGBTQI+ people, especially young people, and to creating or worsening social divisions in our society.

The APS does not support the Postal Vote due to the damaging nature of the debate and the campaigning it involves. We have already seen our community becoming divided along Yes or No lines. This is detrimental to the health and wellbeing of LGBTQI+ people, their family and friends but also damages the cohesive fabric of our society. If the High Court challenge is unsuccessful and the vote proceeds, we support the Yes vote.

We urge that same-sex marriage be legalised.



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President, Australian Psychological Society

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