

50 Multi-faith clergy call for marriage equality

Australian Marriage Equality has welcomed a letter from 50 multi-faith Clergy from across Australia calling on Australians to show their support for marriage equality by making submissions to the Senate Inquiry and the House Representatives inquiry into same-sex marriage. (Names of Clergy below)

This comes after 6 Victorian Catholic Bishops wrote to parishioners on the weekend asking them to oppose equality for same-sex couples.

The supportive clergy come from Uniting, Baptist, Anglican, Jewish, and other faith groups and their letter sent to 60,000 supporters reads:

“As clergy from various different faiths and denominations in Australia, we believe marriage is a fundamental institution in our society. It fosters greater commitment between partners, provides children with a sense of security and stability, and strengthens ties with families and communities. Marriage is a blessing to be shared, so we encourage people of faith who support marriage equality to voice their support for the reform by responding to the House of Representatives inquiry on same-sex marriage today.”

Australian Marriage Equality National Convener, Alex Greenwich, said the Clergy were sending a clear message to decision makers in Canberra:

“These Clergy value the security and recognition that comes with marriage, and are calling for this important right to be extended to loving and committed same-sex couples.”

Mr Greenwich said the letter was a sign of the growing momentum towards marriage equality:

“Some of the clergy were once opposed to marriage equality, but have gone on the same journey of acceptance that a majority of Australians have”.

“Despite the moves of the Victorian Catholic Church, same-sex couples and our families can be confident we now have strong support from religious leaders across the country”.

The Clergy who signed the letter are listed below:

1. Rev Penny Jones, Anglican Priest, Queensland
2. Rev Leigh Neighbour, Metropolitan Community Church, Brisbane
3. Bishop-elect Timothy Mansfield, Apostolic Johannite Church Sydney,
4. Rev Bill Crews, Uniting Church Sydney

5. Rev Michael Hercock, Baptist Minister Sydney
6. Rev Dr Paul Walton, Uniting Church Minister, Queensland
7. Fr Rod Bower, Anglican Priest, Gosford NSW
8. Rev Chris Bedding, Anglican Priest, Perth
9. Rev Steve Thompson, Uniting Church Minister, South Australia
10. Rabbi Shoshana Kaminsky, Adelaide
11. Rev Eileen Ray, Uniting Church Minister, Victoria
12. Rev Shane Andersen DD, Senior Pastor, Outreach Ministries Church Fellowship, Sydney
13. Rev Natasha Darke, Anglican Priest, Adelaide
14. Rev Julie Leaves, Anglican Priest, Brisbane
15. Rev Canon Dr Nigel Leaves, St John's Anglican Cathedral, Brisbane
16. Pastor Karl Hand, Metropolitan Community Church, Sydney
17. Rev Dr Rowland Croucher, Baptist Minister, Victoria
18. Rev John Clapton, Anglican Priest, Perth
19. Rev Boris Kleiner, Church Of the First Creation, Queensland
20. Rev Roger Munson, St James Uniting Church, Canberra
21. Rev Dr Jonathan Inkpin, Anglican Rector of the Parish of St Luke, Toowoomba
22. Rev Susan Pickering, Uniting Church Minister, Brisbane
23. Rev Jonathan Chambers, Senior Anglican Chaplain, Victoria
24. Rev Dr Ian Mavor OAM, Uniting Church Minister, Queensland
25. Fr Thomas Leslie, Anglican Priest, Victoria
26. Rev Dr Avril Hannah-Jones, Uniting Church Minister, Victoria
27. Rev Dr Craig de Vos, Uniting Church Minister, South Australia
28. Rev Tony Johnson, Uniting Church Minister, Victoria
29. Rev Canon John Fowler, Anglican Priest, Victoria
30. Rev Andrew Prior, Uniting Church, South Australia
31. Rev Joan Riley, Anglican Priest, South Australia
32. Rev Judy Redman, Uniting Church Minister, New South Wales
33. Rev Murray Fysh, Uniting Church Minister, Queensland
34. Rev Andrew Eaton, Anglican Priest, Victoria.
35. Rev Dennis Webster, Anglican Priest, Victoria.
36. Rev Josie Nottle, Uniting Church Minister, Queensland.
37. Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins, Senior Rabbi, New South Wales.
38. Rev Tracey Gracey, Anglican Priest, South Australia.
39. Rev John Maddern, Uniting Church, Past Moderator, South Australia.
40. Rev Peter Weeks, Uniting Church Minister, Victoria.
41. Fr Stephen Clark, Anglican Parish Priest, Blackwood, SA
42. Rev Bruce Stocks, Anglican Priest, Adelaide SA
43. Rev Caro Field, Uniting Church Minister, Victoria.
44. Rev Dr Geoffrey D Scott, Uniting Church Minister (ret.), South Australia.
45. Rev Bill Harris, Deacon, Uniting Church, South Australia.

46. Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black, Victoria.
47. Rev Christine Garner, Uniting Church Minister (ret.), South Australia.
48. Rev Dr Michael Godfrey, Anglican Priest, Northern Territory.
49. Rev Leanne Jane Jenski, Uniting Church minister, South Australia.
50. Rev Susan Wickham, Uniting Church minister, South Australia.

Additional quotes from Clergy in support of marriage equality can be found at <http://www.christians4equality.com.au/>.

For further information please contact Alex Greenwich on 0421 316 335.

Disclaimer: The personal support for marriage equality expressed by clergy listed above does not necessarily reflect the official position of their organisation as a whole. To find out where the organisation stands on marriage equality, please contact AME or the organisation itself.