



BLACK RAINBOW

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Media release 16 September 2016 - Plebiscite on Marriage Equality

With deep concern and a heavy heart, we call on the government to consider the psychosocial impact a plebiscite on marriage equality in Australia will have on a group of Australians already vulnerable to social exclusion.

We call on the government to make it law, that same-sex attracted Australians can marry each other.

We call on the government to consider very carefully the high rates of suicide and self harm that the Australian Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans* and Intersex (LGBTI) community already experience through social exclusion.

We call on the government to consider very carefully the high rates of suicide and self harm of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

We call on the government to consider very carefully the impact a plebiscite will have on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australian LGBTI community, where the risk of suicide is amplified yet again.

We call on the government to consider very carefully the vicarious trauma impacted upon Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities.

We applaud the government's commitment to suicide prevention and the allocation of funds for suicide prevention measure.

However, we ask the government to carefully consider the self defeating purpose a plebiscite will have on these measures and the monies spent.

Additionally, we are concerned of any aspirational target in the reduction in suicides that is not zero. We fear that the many minority high risk groups already under resourced and excluded from mainstream prevention measures will continue to do so to accomplish a target short of zero.

With a deep concern and a heavy heart, and we call on the government to make it law, that same-sex attracted Australians can marry each other.

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