



Media Statement

22 August 2017

Love Doesn't Discriminate

In 2015, *beyondblue* issued a [statement in support of marriage equality](#).

We did so because discrimination is unacceptable.

Discrimination is a cause of distress for many people and elevates the risk of mental health issues and suicide.

We did so because LGBTI people experience higher rates of depression and anxiety, and are at greater risk of suicide, than the broader community. This is not due to their sexuality or gender identity, but because of the discrimination and prejudice they too often face.

Same-sex attracted Australians are three times more likely to experience depression, and twice as likely to experience an anxiety condition, than heterosexual Australians. One in six LGBTI young people has attempted suicide.

As an organisation that advocates for an end to discrimination in all its forms, *beyondblue's* position remains unchanged.

Love doesn't discriminate and neither does *beyondblue*.

There are different views about marriage equality. We appeal for a respectful and responsible debate no matter what people's position.

It is our job to continue to be a safe harbour for anybody who may be affected by this debate.

We want all members of LGBTI communities to know *beyondblue* stands with you and that support is available.

A list of helpful contacts, services and websites is [here](#).

The *beyondblue* Board

Mental health professionals are available at the beyondblue Support Service via phone 24/7 on 1300 22 4636 or via www.beyondblue.org.au/get-support for online chat (3pm-12am AEST) or email responses within 24 hours. Support is also available at QLife – 1800 184 527 – from 3pm to midnight nation-wide.

Visit www.beyondblue.org.au to find out more about:

- *The impact of discrimination*
- *Information for families of young gender diverse people, same-sex attracted and bisexual people, and those who are questioning their sexuality or gender identity*
- *Wingmen – by gay guys for gay guys*
- *Our work with LGBTI communities*
- *Helpful contacts and websites*

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