

31 July 2009
For immediate release



Media Release

Marriage Equality is Good for Health

The Queensland Association for Healthy Communities calls on the federal Labor government to legalise same-sex marriage.

Extensive research shows discrimination and prejudice based on sexual orientation detrimentally affects psychological, physical, social, and economic well-being (Badgett, 2001; Cochran, Sullivan, & Mays, 2003; Herek, Gillis, & Cogan, 1999; Meyer, 2003).

The ban on same-sex marriage perpetuates this discrimination and prejudice.

A series of rallies are taking place across Australia on Saturday 1st August in a *National Day of Action for Marriage Equality*. The day marks five years since the federal government enacted discriminatory legislation limiting marriage between a man and woman.

“There’s no such thing as partial equality” said Paul R Martin, QAHC General Manager. *“If Australia believes in equality for all people, then this should be extended to all aspects of our lives. Same-sex couples should be allowed the choice to marry, just as opposite-sex couples can.”*

“Rather than undermining marriage, the inclusion of same-sex couples actually strengthens the institution of marriage by increasing the number of married couples and keeping the tradition alive and well.”

A Galaxy Poll conducted in Queensland last year showed that 54% of Queenslanders believed same-sex couples should be able to marry. This number increased to 74% among young people aged 16-24 years.

A rally and march will take place in Brisbane this Saturday 1st August, 1pm Queens Park, (opp Treasury Casino) Brisbane City.

For further information or to arrange an interview contact Paul Martin, General Manager on 07 3017 1791, 0407 376 540 or pmartin@qahc.org.au

Badgett, M. V. L. (2001). Money, myths, and change: The economic lives of lesbians and gay men. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Cochran, S. D., Sullivan, J. G., & Mays, V. M. (2003). Prevalence of mental disorders, psychological distress, and mental health service use among lesbian, gay, and bisexual adults in the United States. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 71, 53-61.

Herek, G. M., Gillis, J. R., & Cogan, J. C. (1999). Psychological sequelae of hate crime victimization among lesbian, gay, and bisexual adults. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 67, 945-951.

Meyer, I. H. (2003). Prejudice, social stress, and mental health in lesbian, gay, and bisexual populations: Conceptual issues and research evidence. *Psychological Bulletin*, 129, 674-697.