



ST KILDA FOOTBALL CLUB

Open letter from St Kilda Football Club in support of Marriage Equality

We, St Kilda Football Club, write to express our support for marriage equality.

As a club, we believe everyone should feel welcome, included and equal. This belief is at the heart of our *How I Want To Be* spirit and it's key to our values as an organisation. We want to help connect people and communities by wrapping football in the unique spirit of St Kilda.

We recognise the right of our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) employees, volunteers, clients and customers to live and work free of prejudice and discrimination. This includes the right to marry the partner of their choice.

Australians are increasingly supportive of marriage equality, with a recent Crosby Textor survey showing seventy-two percent, believe same sex couples should be allowed to marry. We agree. Of the remaining twenty-eight percent only fourteen percent strongly opposed the proposition.

Globally, over twenty countries have passed laws to allow same sex marriage, including countries that are culturally similar to ours like New Zealand, the United States of America, Canada, and Great Britain. These countries did so with lower support for marriage equality than Australia is seeing right now.

On May 22nd, the Republic of Ireland held a referendum to sanction same sex marriage. A Yes vote was supported by the Government, all major political parties and the voters themselves.

On June 26th, the U.S. Supreme court returned a judgement in favour of legalising same sex marriage across all 50 states.

These two events see Australia isolated amongst countries with English as a first language.

We fervently believe in equality amongst people in all walks of life - in employment, education, sport and community involvement. Equality improves workplaces, service delivery and society in general by allowing everyone to be treated with equal respect and feel included. We therefore support equality being extended to the sanctity of marriage.

Sincerely,

Matt Finnis

CEO

St Kilda Football Club