MEDIA STATEMENT

ACMHN calls for legislative change of marriage equality to promote better mental health

The Australian College of Mental Health Nurses (ACMHN) calls for the inclusion of people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) and promotes the positive mental health outcomes of the probable legislative change regarding same-sex marriage.

Despite growing support in the wider community, the ongoing debate about same-sex marriage has heightened discrimination towards people who are LGBTIQ.

ACMHN CEO, Adjunct Associate Professor Kim Ryan commented that the constant dispute, inaccurate claims and image portrayal of LGBTIQ people can have damaging effects and exacerbates the inappropriate treatment of people and families within this community.

“We already know prior to this debate that there is a disproportion of LGBTIQ people who are experiencing mental health issues compared to the wider population. Discrimination, isolation and mistruths further aggravate their mental health state”, said Ms Ryan.

Numerous international studies provide evidence that same-sex marriage has positive effects including a reduction in suicide attempts and confirm that children raised by same-sex couples lead happy and healthy lives.

The myths spread throughout this debate has caused distress to many, and it has the power to distort views, perpetuating the existing stigma and marginalisation.

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Available for interview or comment ACMHN CEO Adjunct Professor Kim Ryan

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