



Uniting Church **LGBTIQ** Network

welcoming and celebrating lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender,
intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) people, couples and families
in the life of the Uniting Church in Australia
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Media Release: Marriage report welcomed

The Uniting Church's LGBTIQ Network has welcomed a new Uniting Church report which would permit Uniting Church Ministers to marry same-gender couples.

"The Report signals one further step in the direction of LGBTIQ equality", stated National Secretary Warren Talbot. "After many years of discussing and considering the Christian understanding of human sexuality, and the Way of Jesus, the Church is moving to permit the marriage of same-gender couples. This direction is welcomed.

"The Uniting Church already has numbers of LGBTI clergy living in same-sex relationships and it is consistent to permit them to both be married and marry others in a church marriage service.

"Uniting Network members thank and commend the Church's Working Group on Doctrine for the quality of the report, the work that has been put in including the serious effort to include LGBTIQ Christians", Mr Talbot.

Mr Talbot stated that there were still areas where LGBTIQ people are not fully included in the life of the Uniting Church. He said that church is on a journey to live out the Gospel of love and justice for all.

"The Christian vision is that all people, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status are regarded as equal in the eyes of God.

"If the new marriage definition is agreed clergy will still be able to refuse to marry a couple solely on the grounds that they are of the same sex/gender. The Uniting Church strives to be inclusive, and although legal, this exclusion of some couples should not be permitted by the Uniting Church as a matter of Christian ethics and church teaching.

"In the same way local churches can still refuse to appoint a Minister solely on the grounds of their sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status."

"The Uniting Church states that it welcomes LGBTIQ people in all areas of its life and ministry. This is a journey and has not been fully achieved at this point in time", Mr Talbot said.

4 May 2018. Inquiries: Warren Talbot - 0458 852 882