

22 June 2017

Statement from the Endocrine Society of Australia regarding marriage equality and gender issues. June 2017

Marriage equality

The Endocrine Society of Australia (ESA) strongly supports marriage equality in Australia. We call upon the Liberal-National Coalition Government to allow a free conscience vote in federal parliament to enable the legalisation of same sex marriage. We do acknowledge that this statement may not reflect the personal views of all ESA members. ESA respects the views of all Australians regarding this issue, and understands that some individuals may have personal or religious convictions, which would lead them to oppose same sex marriage. However such views should not be the basis to deprive same sex couples the legal right to marry. This will bring Australia into line with other countries such as New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Ireland and Canada.

Legalising same sex marriage will allow gay and lesbian couples the opportunity for the same civil rights as a heterosexual couple – that is to formalise their relationship in the eye of the law. Tolerance of diversity is important for the well-being of all Australians. Marriage promotes stability and economic security. We believe that legalising same sex marriage will provide mental health benefits for LGBTIQ Australians.

Hormonal management of transgender and intersex people

The Endocrine Society of Australia also support the equitable provision of high quality medical services for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning (LGBTIQ) community. Endocrinologists are important members of the multi-disciplinary team providing care to enable these people to express their gender identity and sexuality. Gender dysphoria is a serious condition with a high risk of self harm and suicide. Treatment to suppress unwanted hormones and replace others improves quality of life and overall outcomes. Hormonal management has advanced greatly, with increasing medical awareness of the needs of transgender and intersex people leading to the evolution of recent guidelines from international Endocrine Societies regarding optimal management of transgender individuals. Endocrinologists are important members of the multi-disciplinary team providing care to enable these people to express their gender identity and sexuality.

In summary, the Endocrine Society of Australia fully supports equality for gay and lesbian couples in the civil right to be legally married in Australia and also advocates for the equitable and comprehensive management of transgender and intersex people.



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