

**Media Release**  
**For immediate release**

**Wednesday 15 November 2017**

## **Relationships Australia celebrates ‘YES’ to ABS marriage equality announcement!**

The Australian Bureau of Statistics this morning announced that a majority of Australians supported the yes vote for marriage equality. The national marriage postal survey closed on Tuesday 7 November, with results released earlier today.

“Relationships Australia is delighted that as a country we support all adult Australians to be able to access marriage as a public commitment to their relationships,” Relationships Australia National Executive Officer, Alison Brook said.

“The high engagement in the postal survey reveals how committed Australians are to having their say on this important issue,” Ms Brook said. The Australian Bureau of Statistics figures revealed that 12.6 million Australians voted in the poll, which is a return rate of close to 80 per cent. It is considered a high return rate for a voluntary non-binding poll.

The Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has previously said legislation to enact marriage equality could be passed by Christmas.

“We strongly encourage the Government to introduce legislation that supports the will of the majority of adult Australians. We would also encourage all Australians to remain respectful of the full range of opinions in the coming months,” Ms Brook said.

The federation of nine Relationships Australia organisations joined the call for Australians to vote yes to marriage equality. Relationships Australia believes that marriage equality is important to the physical and mental health of all Australians.

Counselling services are available nationally for anyone who is negatively impacted by any aspect of the marriage equality debate. Relationships Australia centres are available to support people who need help, particularly LGBTIQ Australians for whom this is a particularly sensitive issue.

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### **About Relationships Australia**

Relationships Australia provides counselling, psychosocial support, family support, dispute resolution, mental health and a range of other services by more than 2,000 staff, from 118 centres around the country. For more information call 1300 364 277 to access the service closest to you.

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