

ACCCR STATEMENT on LGBT CONVERSION PRACTICES

November 2023

As the members of 16 Catholic organisations in Australia and New Zealand we give our full and unqualified support for a ban on LGBT conversion practices in NSW.

The Australasian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform abides by Jesus' message of love, justice and equality. It is our duty to challenge unjust social structures that cause harm and disadvantage the vulnerable and to advocate for those who suffer and do not have a voice.

In NSW people continue to be damaged by practices that seek to manipulate their sexuality or gender identity. We know this pain can include severe anxiety and depression and symptoms of chronic trauma.

Faith in Jesus should never be a means to cause harm and as Catholics we denounce discrimination in all its forms, whether on the basis of gender, sexuality, ethnicity, religious affiliation, marital status or political affiliation.

The New Testament recognises everyone as a child of God and equal in dignity. As Paul clearly states in Galatians 3:28: "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Furthermore, there is not a medical or scientific body in Australia that supports LGBT conversion practices, which are grounded in the baseless belief that people can or should be made to change a deeply felt part of who they are.

We cannot support practices that achieve nothing but cause people deep trauma and profound pain and, in many cases, alienates them from their faith, families and religious communities. As members of the Church, we seek a society that is just, compassionate and egalitarian.

All churches should be safe and welcoming for everyone regardless of their sexuality, gender identity or marital status. We embrace the rich diversity of our community and stand against any practices that harm others, recognising all people are made in the image of God.

Be the Change Aotearoa
Cardijn Community Australia
Catholics Moving Forward Shoalhaven
Communities of the Way
Concerned Catholics Canberra Goulburn
Concerned Catholics Tasmania
Concerned Catholics Wagga Wagga
Concerned Catholics Wollongong
Cyber Christian Community
For The Innocents
Rainbow Catholic InterAgency for Ministry
SA Catholics for an Evolving Church
Voices of Australian Catholic Laity
WATAC Inc – Women and the Australian Church
Welcoming Christian Community
WWITCH – Women's Wisdom in the Church