



## **MEDIA RELEASE / STATEMENT**

**12 September 2017**

### **Australian marriage law postal survey – It is all about respect**

The Tasmanian *Anti-Discrimination Act 1998* exists to protect all Tasmanians from discrimination, sexual harassment and other unlawful conduct.

Equal Opportunity Tasmania encourages all members of the community to show respect and tolerance during the period of the Australian marriage law postal survey.

“Many members of the community will have opposing views and opinions in relation to same-sex marriage. It is up to all Tasmanians, regardless of differing opinions, to respect the right of every individual to vote Yes or No”. Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, Sarah Bolt said.

“I would urge all Tasmanians to ensure their opinions are shared in a way that does not discriminate, harass, or bully others for having a different view. Regardless of individual or organisational views the exercise of free speech should operate in a way that is respectful and does not cause harm to those who do not share the same opinion.”

“Everybody has the right to feel safe, accepted and included as a member of our community. I encourage anyone, whether a no or yes voter who experiences discrimination or other unlawful conduct on the basis of their sexuality, gender identity, or religion during the survey period to contact Equal Opportunity Tasmania.”

**Sarah Bolt**

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION COMMISSIONER