



Australian Marriage Equality
PO Box 665
Darlinghurst NSW 1300

12 May 2016

To whom it may concern

Deakin University is proud to express its support for marriage equality.

Education has always been both a compelling indicator and a powerful instrument of human progress, and universities have an important role to play in promoting the inclusion and tolerance that reflects a just and fair society.

In Australia, a country that prides itself on its egalitarian ethos, we still confront behaviour that violates equality and fairness and we still experience discrimination. Understanding and valuing diversity has always been the key to countering discrimination and it will ensure we triumph over those who rely on ignorance to propagate discrimination.

Deakin sees the diversity of its staff and students as a great strength and a much valued asset for our learning community. We support diversity in the higher education sector and we recognise the rights of our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex students and employees to learn, live and work, free of prejudice and discrimination, with all the essential freedoms enjoyed by other members of our university community and the broader population.

At its heart, marriage equality is about justice and fairness – exclusion of same-sex attracted people from marriage sends a message that discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation is acceptable. Equal Marriage is the only truly fair way forward and it is important if we are to create a climate where knowledge, achievement and intellectual output can flourish.

Learning and academic achievement will flourish when all members of university communities everywhere have their dignity and equality recognised.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jane den Hollander".

Professor Jane den Hollander
Vice-Chancellor