### AN OPEN LETTER FROM FAITH BASED ORGANISATIONS IN SUPPORT OF CIVIL MARRIAGE EQUALITY IN AUSTRALIA

We (insert organisation name), write to express our support for civil marriage equality.

As leaders from our faith communities, we choose to promote equality and inclusion for all people.

As people of faith, we know marriage equality is a simple civil matter that does not affect religious practice or freedoms. We know and love many in our faith communities who are LGBTI or have family who identify as LGBTI.

53% of Christians (Crosby Textor, 2014), 58% of Catholics and 66% of other faiths (ABC Compass Vote, 2016) are in support of marriage equality.

The Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils, the Australian Council of Hindu Clergy, the Metropolitan Community Church, the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and the Unitarians and many more faith groups have declared their public support for civil marriage equality.

Our faith-based communities are proof that our religious teachings to love unconditionally and to treat in right-relationship, are universal and abundantly available for all. Love is not a finite resource!

As people of faith, we understand that marriage is based on the values of love and commitment and thus we support civil marriage equality, not despite but because of our faith and values.

We urge people of faith to exercise their freedom of conscience to stand up for marriage equality as a matter of social justice.

We call on the Australian Parliament to come together and make Marriage Equality a reality for all Australians.

As leaders from our faith communities, we choose to promote equality and inclusion for all people.

Sincerely

(insert name/s)

(insert title/s)

(insert organisation name)