

Marriage Equality: The International Experience

As Australia moves forward with consideration of legislation allowing Same Sex Marriage, the **Whitlam Institute** and **Catalyst** are very pleased to be jointly hosting this timely and important forum exploring the experience of those countries that have adopted laws providing for marriage equality.

We are very fortunate to have two respected international figures, guests of Australian Marriage Equality, to address the question drawing on the legislative experience and the existing body of relevant research.



Professor Lee Badgett

American scholar, author and researcher, Professor Lee Badgett, has conducted groundbreaking research into the impact of marriage equality overseas. Her conclusion is that marriage equality provides a range of benefits for same-sex partners, their families and the wider community, including economic and financial benefits.

Lee Badgett is Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts, Director of the Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy at the UCLA School of Law and author of *When Gay People Get Married: what happens when societies legalize same-sex marriage*, winner of the American Psychological Society's 2012 Distinguished Book Award.



Boris Dittrich

Boris Dittrich is a long-time human rights campaigner. As a Dutch MP (2003-06) Boris was responsible for introducing legislation that saw the Netherlands become the first country in the world to allow same-sex marriages. Since 2007 Boris has been Advocacy Director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Rights Program at Human Rights Watch in New York. He has received a Knighthood in the Order of Orange Nassau from Queen Beatrix for his human rights advocacy.

Our speakers will be introduced by **Rodney Croome**. Rodney is a long-time campaigner for LGBTI human rights both in his home state of Tasmania and nationally. He was awarded an Order of Australia in 2003 for his work. He is the co-author of *Why v Why: gay marriage* and is currently the campaign director for Australian Marriage Equality.

Marriage Equality: the International Experience

Friday 2 March

5.00 – 6.30 pm, followed by light refreshments

Trades Hall Auditorium
4-10 Goulburn St (Haymarket) Sydney

Entry is FREE, however places are limited so registration is essential.

Please RSVP to: info@whitlam.org or by calling 02-9685 9187

www.whitlam.org