

Dear members of SVHA's health and aged care ministries

Some of you may have seen media coverage over the weekend concerning the Catholic Church's approach to its employees and marriage equality.

We want to acknowledge this may be a difficult time for many of our staff, their families and friends. We want to be absolutely clear: all our LGBTQI employees have the full support of St Vincent's Health Australia. We value you. We recognise you and are grateful for your contribution and care.

This will never change.

St Vincent's has a long tradition of embracing diversity in our workforce. We will continue to support all our staff in whatever marriage choices they make in the future.

All of our staff, whatever their life experiences and backgrounds, have a significant part to play in helping us serve the people who come to us for care. Our staff from the LGBTQI community are no exception.

We would say to our LGBTQI staff directly: our Mission – which is to bring God's love to those in need – has been a beneficiary of your professionalism, kindness and humanity for more than 170 years, since the first St Vincent's Hospital was established.

Our Mission is special because of your contribution.

Should you require it, our Employee Assistance Program (EAP) offers confidential phone support free of charge which you can call on 1800 81 87 28. There are also a number of community support agencies who can help you and your families throughout this debate.

If you need our help please speak up.

## Regards

Dr Tessa Ho, Chair, Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries Paul Robertson AM, Chair, St Vincent's Health Australia Toby Hall, Group CEO, St Vincent's Health Australia

