

College of Emergency Nursing Australasia

Marriage Equality

The College of Emergency Nursing Australasia (CENA) advocates in support of marriage equality.

CENA is committed to eliminating discrimination and championing diversity amongst the emergency nursing community as well as for the patients that present to emergency departments. As such, CENA opposes all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination, and is committed to encouraging equality, diversity and inclusion irrespective of ethnicity, religion, disability, gender or sexual orientation.

The College recognises that the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) community should have equal rights in Australia and acknowledges that discrimination, bullying and harassment of LGBTIQ people can have severe and detrimental health impacts (Buffie, 2011) on both individuals as well as their respective families. This is seen routinely in many of the presentations to emergency departments across the country.

As emergency nurses, we pride ourselves on being patient advocates. During the most difficult times for our patients - critical illness, death and after death - the current legal requirements make advocating for patients and partners in same sex relationships more complex than for married couples. Changing the law to permit marriage equality will not erase this completely, but will assist emergency nurses to better support patients in our care.

CENA supports equality and the right for marriage equality and also recognises the right of each College member to hold their own personal views and beliefs on this matter, and respects that those views/beliefs may differ from that held by the College.

Buffie, W.C. (2011). Public Health Implications of Same-Sex Marriage. *American Journal of Public Health*, 101(6), 986-989.

[CENA Position Statement-Equality and Diversity \(2017\).](#)

[College of Emergency Nursing Australasia, Practice standards for the emergency nurse specialist, 2014, CENA: Sydney.](#)