

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **Same-sex marriage postal vote deliberately excluding young people**

Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) strongly condemns the Australian Government's choice of a postal plebiscite on same-sex marriage.

Katie Acheson, AYAC Chairperson said: 'By choosing a postal vote, the Government is trying to deliberately exclude young people's voices from this issue – a group that overwhelmingly supports marriage equality.'

'Young people engage with issues online, not via the post, and the Government knows this – if we are willing to conduct our Census online, why not a vote on this incredibly important issue?'

'Governments have consistently ignored the strong interests and voices of young people across important issues such as housing affordability, climate change and asylum seekers and this postal vote sees a continuation of that trend.'

'\$120 million dollars is a huge waste of money to find out what we already know – 80% of young people support marriage equality and it was the second most important issue to them at the 2016 Federal Election.'

'There are close to 300,000 young voters missing from the electoral roll that could change the outcome of this vote. We're calling on the Government to extend the extremely short 15-day timeframe to allow more young people to enrol and for the Australian Electoral Commission to run a campaign to increase enrolment, especially for new voters.'

'And we're calling on all young people to enrol to vote if you haven't – even if you disagree with this process – it's the only avenue for young people to have their say. So update your address, and post your response back to this Government to make sure you have your voice heard on marriage equality in Australia.'

### **Background**

The Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC) is the national peak body for the 4.3 million young Australians aged 12 to 25 and the hundreds of thousands of people and organisations whose work is to support them.

### **Media contact**

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