



# Social Justice STOCKTAKE



## LGBTIQA+ community disadvantage

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### Were you surprised by how low LGBTIQA+ issues rated in the Stocktake?

Initially I was surprised but when we look at the overall results what we see is that issues that relate to particular cohorts are all ranked lower than the more general injustices. Many of these general injustices disproportionately impact on people who are LGBTIQA+ because of stigma and discrimination in our society and I think that respondents identified the outcomes of discrimination rather than the discrimination itself.

### Do you believe Australians believe this issue has been settled with the implementation of marriage equality laws?

We didn't ask respondents to say why they chose particular injustices and not others so we cannot really speculate. It is possible that this is a belief in our society but sadly the reality is very different. People who are LGBTIQA+ continue to experience significant discrimination and hardship in Australia.

### What are some of the issues affecting the LGBTIQA+ community The Salvation Army sees in its work?

Because of the stigma and discrimination experienced by members of the LGBTIQA+ community they can find themselves more vulnerable to disadvantage and can find it harder to seek and find appropriate help. It is important to note that there is nothing about being LGBTIQA+ that makes a person any more vulnerable to disadvantage, the issue lies entirely in how society discriminates, stigmatises and excludes members of this community. Everyone is welcome in our services and we are committed to providing services that are safe and inclusive spaces for members of the LGBTIQA+ community.

### What can someone from the LGBTIQA+ community expect if they contact The Salvation Army for support?

The Salvation Army's goal is to provide compassionate, professional support that is focussed on meeting the needs of everyone who comes to us – irrespective of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or intersex status.

### What more can be done on a community and individual level?

Individuals and community groups can ensure that our own language and behaviour is not discriminatory or exclusionary. To be inclusive we must ensure that we are welcoming and provide



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safe space for all people irrespective of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or intersex status.

Several Australian states are now passing or considering laws criminalising gay conversion practices. What is The Salvation Army's position on this?

The Salvation Army supports the criminalisation of gay conversion practices. Salvationists will continue to oppose vilification of, or discrimination against, anyone on the grounds of sexuality or gender. This includes attempts to change another person's sexual orientation or gender identity and includes actions which deny a person's sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or intersex status.