



# ACIPC

Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control

## **EQUALITY, RESPECT and MARRIAGE EQUALITY POSITION STATEMENT**

The Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control (ACIPC) is the peak body for infection prevention and control professionals in the Australasian region. Our focus is the prevention and control of infection in our communities. At the heart of this is the health and well-being of individuals and the community. Each and every member of our community is at the core of our goals, mission and our practice.

ACIPC is committed to eliminating discrimination amongst its members, their patients, their family and friends, and the community. Accordingly, ACIPC opposes unequivocally all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination. We are committed to valuing and respecting equality, diversity and inclusivity irrespective of ethnicity, religion, disability, gender or sexual orientation. The College recognises that the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) community is a vulnerable community, and have not been granted equal rights in Australia and elsewhere. The College acknowledges the severe and detrimental health effects that prejudice, discrimination, bullying and harassment can have, and does have on the LGBTIQ people, their family and their community. The evidence base for this is very clear. We see this in our everyday practice. As infection, prevention and control professionals we pride ourselves on being patient advocates. During the most difficult times for our patients, the current laws do not make it easy to advocate for patients in same-sex relationships. Changing the law to permit marriage equality will not erase this completely, but will assist infection prevention and control professionals to better support patients in our care.

ACIPC supports equality including the right for marriage equality. At the same time the College recognises the right of each College member to hold their own personal views and beliefs on this matter and respects that those views and beliefs may differ from that held by the College. Infection prevention and control is everyone's business. Equality and respect for others is also everyone's business.