AUSTRALIAN MARRIAGE EQUALITY

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MAJOR PARTIES DON'T DESERVE EQUALITY VOTE

Australian marriage equality advocates say there is a clear choice this election for voters who support full legal equality for same-sex couples.

Australian Marriage Equality National Secretary, Peter Furness, said a range of small parties have responded positively to AME's election survey, with Labor not endorsing equality and the Liberals not yet responding.

"For people who want to vote for equality the choice is clearly not the Coalition or Labor", Mr Furness said.

"For those voters who want to vote for a major party I strongly urge them to give they their first preference to a party that supports marriage equality including the Greens, the Democrats, the Secular Party or the Sex Party."

Mr Furness said an important result of AME's survey is that all parties that responded positively said they do not believe civil unions are an appropriate substitute for marriage equality.

"The minor parties have sent a clear message that their goal is nothing less than full equality."

Mr Furness added that the most disappointing feature of Labor's response is its failure to support the recommendations of the 2009 Senate inquiry into marriage equality, including a further inquiry into relationship recognition and the removal of impediments to same-sex couples marrying overseas.

"The fact that Labor can't support even these very modest steps forward is shocking, and an indication it is unworthy to receive support from people who support equality."

Following Julia Gillard's recent refusal to meet with AME, the group has recommenced its leafletting of inner-city, Labor-held Sydney seats with large gay populations.

The leafletting campaign, which highlights Labor's opposition to marriage equality, will continue up until election day.

For the full party responses visit:
www.australianmarriageequality.com/election.htm

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