



Cartoon: Suzy Monzer

An argument for marriage equality

EDITORIAL

By **SUZY MONZER**

THE anti-gay community accidentally cut themselves today after realising that more and more countries are legalising gay marriage. By the time they had attempted to mend to the wound another community, the gay community, had taken over but already had open wounds due to the discrimination they had suffered. As both communities rushed towards the first aid kit to grab a Band-Aid they realised something astonishing. Their blood was the same colour! Amazing, huh? They bled the same blood! Another amazing discovery: they were both human!

There is an argument that being gay is unnatural and unclean in the eyes of some religions. This is one of the biggest and most common arguments, but think of it this way: if one has total and complete trust in God and believe that gay people need to be punished for being themselves than why can they not trust God and allow God's power to control the series of events that create history? Is it not clear that if God did not want them here then they would not be here?

People once thought that black people were unclean yet society has worked towards overcoming the prejudice. While we are still battling racism, many people in society have opened up to the idea of acceptance and as the generations pass the more understanding society has become.

There is an underlying hatred for concepts that society does not completely understand because when people do not understand something they often fear it which soon leads to hatred. People argue that the children will suffer or worse, become gay themselves. The child will not suffer.

A marriage between any two humans on this earth are open to the same opportunities and just as an 'ordinary' marriage has the chance to crumble so does a gay marriage. There are broken homes today and there will always be broken homes but it is not a gender-related topic at all. In fact, it's all about personality and character.

The third argument is always about the redefining of the word marriage. Well there shouldn't be a major issue here because society redefines words all the time. They also redefine limitations and expectations of others and today's limitations just happen to be that marriage equality is wrong. Will we never learn from history?

Why are we waiting

By **SARAH HOLLOWAY** and **ANNABEL BUSH**

LOCAL residents are experiencing long waits for medical staff. There is a severe shortage of nurses, doctors and ambulance staff in NSW and the long waits in hospitals are increasing by the day. Part of the reason is because nurses are finding the working conditions too difficult.

A number of factors are contributing to this problem. Currently, in NSW the average response time for an ambulance is 11 minutes which is too long if someone is in desperate trouble and needs urgent care.

Additionally, beds are becoming increasingly in demand due to the growing elderly population and very sick people requiring longer stays in hospital.

Ann Walton, a paramedic for Morisset Ambulance Station, said "The biggest cause of this problem is that 30 years ago, medicine started to change and new surgical procedures were put in place."

Meanwhile, resident Tracey Moore believes that nurses in our hospital systems are overworked and underpaid which is largely attributed to "too many non-urgent patients attending hospitals."

The current model of healthcare is slow and at times inefficient. Yet, there are many health clinics that are equipped with trained staff available which are not being used by the public for minor sickness and small injuries as they were intended.

Hospitals are too busy and inundated as patients with minor injuries are being treated at the hospital therefore creating much



The NSW health system is under great pressure from too many patients and not enough staff and medical facilities.

longer waiting times for more critical patients.

Yet local councils are considering reducing or completely removing the current funding for After-Hours GP Access services. If this option is no longer available the patients currently utilising these services will also be forced to go to their local hospital.

A solution must be found for this problem with the population continually increasing. Simone Byrnes from the Hunter Region believes that "we could solve this problem by opening more courses to train nurses, and then give nurses a better wage." This could attract a higher number of people to consider becoming nurses to ease the burden.

Adopt a pet, don't just shop for a new one

By **CAPRICE SAEZ** and **HAILIE WILCOX**

THERE are too many abandoned animals without microchips in need of a home. Only one out of every 10 dogs will find a permanent place to live. The population of homeless animals outnumber homeless people five to one.

Unfortunately, approximately 2.7 million dogs and cats are killed each year in Australia because animal shelters are too full and there aren't enough adoptive homes.

Animal Shelters in the Wyong Shire have experienced a particularly large and unexplained influx in the past month.

RSPCA Australia says that the most common reasons that pets are abandoned is because the owners don't have time for a pet, they cannot afford basic vet care or the expenses involved in owning a pet, or their living situation such as rental homes do not allow pets.

The Society of Companion Animal Rescuers are overwhelmed with the



Rather than buy a new puppy, adopt a pet from the pound – it will save their life.

amount of animals they are having to find housing for. They are urging any body who is interested and willing to get a pet to consider adopting.

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