



AUSTRALIA SAYS YES

Same sex couples celebrate conquering their biggest hurdle in their right to marry but questions remain about when they will finally be able to walk down the aisle

Supporters celebrate in Melbourne: Victoria had the second-highest percentage Yes vote behind the ACT.

Crowds gathered outside the State Library of Victoria in Melbourne to hear the result of the same sex marriage postal survey on Nov. 15.



Dormer (left, with Toweel at a rally on Sept. 10) tells WHO that marriage “came on the table for us when we started talking about kids. We’d really love kids ... and I don’t want to have kids until I’m married.”



Celebrating on Nov. 16, Dormer (with fiancé Toweel) wrote: “Cheers to all, YES & NO voters alike ... love always wins anyway!”



Ian Thorpe (in Sydney on Nov. 15) said to ask him after Christmas whether he and partner Ryan Channing would marry.



Celebrating the Yes vote win, Magda Szubanski sang “We Are Family” and promised No voters she wouldn’t “give you a hard time, we can all get along.”



Senator Wong, who has two children with her partner Sophie Allouache, cried before thanking Australians. “It was such a heartwarming result.”

When the head of the Australian Bureau of Statistics, David Kalisch, announced—after a tortuous few minutes for those awaiting a result in gatherings across the country—that Australians had voted overwhelmingly in favour of same sex marriage, the spotlight focused on reactions across the nation. In particular, Senator Penny Wong’s tearful head-in-hands reaction—“I’m just so happy that our country voted yes,” she tells WHO— and Yes campaigner Magda Szubanski’s exuberant “I bloody love you, Australia!”

She wasn’t alone. Among the millions on Nov. 15 raising a jubilant cheer was reality TV star and 2013 *Big Brother* winner Tim Dormer who tells WHO it felt like a “dream come true. Honest to God it feels a burden and a weight has been lifted off my shoulders.” More than that, the Yes vote is life-changing for Dormer, 33, and his fiancé Ash Toweel, 28. The Sydney couple’s hope that their upcoming Dec. 1 engagement party could become a wedding was dashed when the Turnbull government announced it was pushing back Lower House debate on the issue until Dec. 4. Nevertheless,

“It has changed everything in our lives”
—reality TV star and Yes voter Tim Dormer

Dormer is thrilled that the postal survey has given him and his Christian parents time to discuss each other’s beliefs. “My parents love me,” he tells WHO. “It’s just that they come from a conservative background where they don’t know any people in same-sex relationships.” As news of the 61.6 per cent Yes vote and 38.4 per cent No vote spread, campaigners, celebrities and politicians were quick to react. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said the resounding vote meant it was up to politicians to get the bill passed quickly: “This year, before Christmas—

that must be our commitment.” Gay Liberal MP Tim Wilson was more cautious, telling WHO that while the vote was critical, there was more to do yet “dotting the i’s and crossing the t’s” to get the legislation passed. In the meantime, a relieved Penny Wong—“I feel relief that it’s over, thankful for the outcome”—tells WHO the bill should be addressed quickly: “The Australian people have spoken. They won’t stand for more delay. They want this dealt with, and they want parliamentarians to get on with their job.” As for Dormer, wedding bells—and fatherhood—beckon: “It has changed everything in our lives.”
■ *By Marianne Bilkey. Reported by Cynthia Wang and Rachel Syers.*

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: INSTAGRAM (2); AAP IMAGE (2); TWITTER (15); MEGA AGENCY

THE WORLD REACTS ...

Miley Ray Cyrus @MileyCyrus

Yes!!!! Congrats Australia! Every step taken is one closer to World Peace! Love love love you! Proud to be Australian by association lol ❤️❤️❤️

Debra Messing @DebraMessing

Yayyyyyyyyyy AUSTRALIA!!!!!! 🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈
twitter.com/socialgood/sta...

Sam Smith @samsmithworld · Nov 15

YES YES YES YES YES AUSTRALIA - YES!!!!!! 🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈

Delta Goodrem @DeltaGoodrem

Crying with happiness 🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈

Portia de Rossi @portiadecrossi · Nov 16

Congratulations, Australia! I'm so proud to be an Aussie! #marriageequality 🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈

RICKI-LEE @TheRickiLee

I am crying...61.6% of Australians voted #YES for #MarriageEquality 🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈 So proud of everyone who used their voice & their vote to make a change! Congratulations to the LGBTQ community xxx 🌈🌈🌈 #LovesLove

Sophie Monk @sophiemonk

HORRAY! WELL DONE AUSTRALIA 🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈 I want to become a celebrant now 🌈🌈🌈

Danni Minogue @DanniMinogue

#yes! A huge YES!!! We should never have had to go through this process but, from today, a new Australia where #loveislove 🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈 #marriageequality

Ellen DeGeneres @TheEllenShow · Nov 15

It's a g'day. Way to go Australia. #MarriageEquality 🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈

Joel Creasey @joelcreasey

So stoked. So relieved. So gay. 🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈

Ricky Martin @ricky_martin · Nov 15

Today is a great day for human rights. #Australia says YES to marriage equality. BRAVO! This makes me so happy.

kylie minogue @kylieiminogue · Nov 15

#Australia ... 🌈🌈🌈 #MarriageEquality 🌈🌈🌈 Love is love, always was love, always will be love.

ADAM LAMBERT @adamlambert

Woohoooo marriage equality in Australia! 🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈🌈

sia @Sia

the Australian people have spoken loud and clear. #LovesLove 🌈🌈🌈



Zach Braff @zachbraff
Congrats Australia!
10:39 AM · Nov 15, 2017