

# THE AUSTRALIAN

FOR THE INFORMED AUSTRALIAN

NEWS OPINION BUSINESS REVIEW NATIONAL AFFAIRS SPORT LIFE TECH ARTS TRAVEL HIGHER ED MEDIA PROPERTY

THE NATION

## Same-sex couples 'make good parents': researchers

The Australian | 12:00AM October 23, 2017

25

f

t

m

...

Save



SEAN PARNELL  
Health Editor - Brisbane @seanparnell

Children raised by gay parents do as well as kids raised by straight parents, according to a comprehensive research analysis published in the *Medical Journal of Australia* today.

The analysis was done by professor Frank Oberklaid and colleagues from Murdoch Children's Research Institute, the University of Melbourne, the Royal Children's Hospital, Victorian Clinical Genetics Services, the Children's Hospital at Westmead, and the Liggins Institute at the University of Auckland.

Correcting what they described as "misinformation" circulating in the same-sex marriage debate, the researchers cited a 2017 review of 79 studies, a 2014 review of more than 40 studies, a 2013 review in Australia and a 2010 meta-analysis of 33 studies in their analysis.

"An increased public health risk exists as a result of homophobic campaign messages aimed at the community, including a mental health risk for same-sex couples, their children, and young people who identify as LGBTIQ+," they wrote in the journal. "The consensus of the peer-reviewed research is that children raised in same-sex parented families do as well emotionally, socially and educationally as children raised by heterosexual-couple parents. These findings have been replicated across independent studies in Australia and internationally."

"The research tells us that children and adolescents with same-sex parents are doing well, despite the discrimination that their families endure. This will not continue for long in the face of hostile debate."

All major health groups in Australia have made policy statements in support of marriage equality — prompting some members to make their opposition known — and Health Minister Greg Hunt has championed the Yes campaign.

The researchers noted that although some studies suggested children with same-sex parents did better than other children, that may reflect high-quality parenting, socio-economic status and family stability within the same-sex parents studied.

"The findings of these reviews reflect a broader consensus within the fields of family studies and psychology," they wrote. "It is family processes (parenting quality, parental wellbeing, the quality of and satisfaction with relationships within the family), rather than family structures (the number, gender, sexuality or cohabitation arrangements of parents), that make a more meaningful difference to children's wellbeing and positive development."

Messages from the No campaign include that children of gay parents are neglected or put at risk, and allowing gay marriage would see children sexualised at school or in the community.



THE AUSTRALIAN PRESENTS

### Q&A CRACKING A COLD CASE

Discuss our latest podcast: 'The Teacher's Pet' with award winning journalist Hedley Thomas. Go behind-the-scenes and hear about his investigation, the twists and turns of the case and get exclusive insights.

📅 June 26, 6pm / June 27, 6pm

📍 Brisbane / Sydney

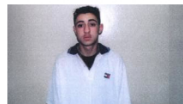
BOOK NOW >



### Cohen unruffled in CBA defence

BEN BUTLER

David Cohen was finally excused yesterday afternoon after a grilling that lasted more than seven hours across two days.



### Skaf rapist demands release

One of the nation's most notorious criminals wants to be freed despite refusing to take responsibility for his actions.



### Abandoned oBikes now litter

RICHARD FERGUSON

Abandoned oBikes will be classified as litter under a new fine system, with the company liable for \$3000 penalties.



### Libs at risk from 'wealthy elites'

ADAM CREIGHTON

The Liberal Party risks losing its



### Pub sale demand 'not surprising'

BEN BUTLER, ELIZABETH REDMAN

Don't expect to sell a pub



### FRENCH OPEN Superhero Serena marvels

Novak Djokovic makes

### MORE STORIES

#### 1000 stillbirths not counted



RACHEL BAKENDALE

Different data sources mean the ABS doesn't count as many stillbirths as the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

#### Police 'faked breath tests'



RHIAN DEUTROM

Victoria Police officers faked more than 258,000 roadside alcohol breath tests, an audit has revealed.

#### MP deserts Hanson to back tax cut



JOE KELLY

One Nation senator Brian Burston has declared he would support the government's \$35.6 billion company tax cuts.

Advertisement



THE LAUREL PARTY TAKES CAPTURE BY big business and wealthy elites, NSW Treasurer Dominic Perrottet has warned.


DATAWEEK PRESSURE TO SELL A PRO despite a clean payment history wasn't surprising, CBA's chief risk officer has told the inquiry.

NEW HULL DECIDE WILLIAMS BRINGS her return to grand slam tennis as memorable as her body-hugging "warrior" black suit.

Reader comments on this site are moderated before publication to promote lively and civil debate. We encourage your comments but submitting one does not guarantee publication. We publish hundreds of comments daily, and if a comment is rejected it is likely because it does not meet with our comment guidelines, which you can read [here](#). No correspondence will be entered into if a comment is declined.


25 COMMENTS Sign in 11 people listening

 + Follow

 Share

Post comment as...


NEWEST | OLDEST | TOP COMMENTS

- **Caroline**

OCT 23, 2017

Whatever. I've seen it first hand. Kids who don't have both biological parents at home are at a disadvantage in every way.

Promoting a lifestyle that robs children of their right to know both parents is wrong.


1 LIKE REPLY
- **tim**

OCT 22, 2017

Hey look. Actual researched evidence.


When have Abbott, Abetz or Andrews ever done any actual scientific evidence in their lives?

Never.

2 LIKE REPLY
- **Robert**

OCT 22, 2017


@tim Hey look, they set the parameters for their own research

2 LIKE REPLY
- **David**

OCT 22, 2017


@Robert @tim

Hey look, a desperate attempt at invalidation.

1 LIKE REPLY
- **Koula**

OCT 22, 2017


They have 'cherry picked' the research that suits them. David van Gend's book "Stealing From a Child" proves the complete opposite. All one needs to do is look at the overall wellness of children who go through divorces, death of one biological parent, etc to see that living with both biological parents is overall the best outcome. We don't need to be bamboozled by research and data. We just need to have common sense, which unfortunately is lacking in the world today.

5 LIKE REPLY
- **David**

OCT 22, 2017


@Koula

That's funny, thinking someone other than David van Gend has been cherry picking. What you claim re children losing a parent bears no correlation to same sex parenting.

1 LIKE REPLY
- **Koula**

OCT 22, 2017


David, I have to disagree with you. Children being brought up in same sex relationships are in effect losing one of their biological parents. If it wasn't such a big deal, why do we have television programs dedicated to adults (who have been brought up by loving adoptive parents) who are desperate to find their birth mother or biological father. It is because, whether we understand it or not, people have an innate longing to know where they came from. No scientific study I'm sure can refute that.

4 LIKE REPLY
- **David**

OCT 22, 2017


@Koula

None of what you claim negates the findings of the experts.

1 LIKE REPLY
- **Koula**

OCT 22, 2017


Ultimately who cares what the so-called experts say. They only say what is favourable for their back pocket or their particular biased points of view. Ordinary people need to become the 'real experts' and think for themselves. If we trusted every 'expert' we would all need to be admitted to psychiatric hospitals or we would already be ten foot underground. Use your own brain and think!

3 LIKE REPLY
- **David**

OCT 22, 2017


@Koula

Good luck with becoming an informed, educated expert in everything. Do your own dentistry do you?

LIKE REPLY
- **Koula**

OCT 22, 2017

@David @Koula It seems that we require a panel of experts to inform us or dictate to us on a daily basis. I wonder how we could possibly live without them. How humanity managed over the years without so-called 'educated experts' to help it survive is beyond me.


2 LIKE REPLY
- **David**

OCT 22, 2017


@Koula @David

We didn't have so much expertise available in so many fields, knowledge has expanded exponentially. Not as many people did survive in the past.


LIKE REPLY

 **Tina** OCT 23, 2017  
How come in Canada suicide rates keep increasing exponentially and same sex marriage has been legal for many years. Has knowledge really expanded exponentially?


3    LIKE REPLY

 **Koula** OCT 23, 2017  
What 'educated expert' has given you that piece of information. Source please.


LIKE REPLY

 **Descent** OCT 23, 2017  
[@Koula](#) I think this research must be a bit biased. In the quadrant article which looked at all the research it shows that homosexual marriages are very unstable. This is what has more of an impact. I will enjoy looking further into the research. Not convinced.


1  LIKE REPLY

 **Paul** OCT 22, 2017  
Sorry, but I'm going with millennia of human experience over a 'peer reviewed' article published yesterday


5    LIKE REPLY

 **David** OCT 22, 2017  
[@Paul](#)  
Of course you are. When an uninformed, unscientific claim suits your predetermined stance decades of research by the relevant experts counts for nothing right.


1  LIKE REPLY

 **tim** OCT 22, 2017  
A millennia of human experience?  
Have you been alive for a thousand years or are you just going on your ignorant biases and 'gut feel' again?

1  LIKE REPLY

 **Ashley** OCT 22, 2017  
A politically-motivated 'study' based on extremely small sample sizes. Now that's what I call scientific!


3    LIKE REPLY

 **David** OCT 22, 2017  
[@Ashley](#)  
Not politically motivated, that's for the likes of Shelton. Meta-analyses on a number of studies from various precincts. So no, not extremely small sample sizes. Your wish hasn't come true.


1  LIKE REPLY

 **Paul** OCT 22, 2017  
The AMA have already declared their position on SSM. How can you say politics has no influence?


2   LIKE REPLY

 **David** OCT 22, 2017  
[@Paul](#)  
When the science supports their position.


1  LIKE REPLY

 **Daniel** OCT 22, 2017  
[@David](#) [@Paul](#) David, you're on fire this morning!

LIKE REPLY

 **Ashley** OCT 22, 2017  
[@David](#) [@Paul](#) Science\* requires meaningful sample sizes. Your argument is invalid.

1  LIKE REPLY

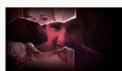
 **David** OCT 22, 2017  
[@Ashley](#) [@David](#) [@Paul](#)  
Repeating your error won't alter the outcome.

LIKE REPLY

## FEATURES



The check coat is so hot right now. Warm, too.



Podcast: Hedley Thomas digs deep into a cold case, uncovering startling new evidence



About two-thirds of people worldwide have trouble digesting lactose.



Everything you should know about the Banking Royal Commission



Travel & Indulgence photography competition - send us your snaps



Culture: Your guide to the best in arts and entertainment in 2018

THE AUSTRALIAN\*

**50% off** for the first 12 weeks. Conditions apply.

Subscribe now ▶

A NOTE ABOUT RELEVANT ADVERTISING: We collect information about the content (including ads) you use across this site and use it to make both advertising and content more relevant to you on our network and other sites. This is also known as Online Behavioural Advertising. You can [find out more about our policy and your choices, including how to opt-out here](#)

⬆ Back to top

LOG IN

SUBSCRIBE

THE AUSTRALIAN



## The Australian app



## Our Products

[The Australian app on iOS](#)  
[The Australian app on Android](#)  
[Facebook messenger app](#)  
[Chinese Site](#)  
[Today's paper](#)

## Terms of Use

[Editorial Code of conduct](#)  
[Standards of Practice](#)  
[Subscription terms](#)  
[Group Subscription Terms](#)  
[Accessibility](#)  
[Privacy Policy](#)  
[Relevant Ads Opt-out](#)  
[Cookie Policy](#)

## Contact Us

[Help](#)  
[Contact Us info](#)  
[Photo Sales](#)  
[News Archive](#)

## About Us

[About The Australian](#)  
[Advertise with us](#)  
[Our Journalists](#)  
[Subscribe](#)  
[The Australian Plus member benefits](#)  
[Sign up to Newsletters](#)  
[Manage Your Newsletters](#)