



PRIME MINISTER

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER**

**STARTOUT AUSTRALIA LAUNCH**

I am delighted to send my best wishes to everyone involved with the launch of StartOut Australia's online mentoring platform, a new resource to help build skills, confidence and resilience in young people of diverse sexualities and genders.

It is truly remarkable how far society has come in recent decades. We celebrate our diversity and champion the contributions of all people to the life of our nation, regardless of gender or sexuality. And while we take pride in this great progress, we also recognise there is much work to be done.

With the launch of StartOut's new online platform, more young people in Australia will have access to support that is accessible and tailored to their needs. So I thank all staff and supporters for your commitment to making a difference, and for promoting the values of tolerance and freedom of expression that enable social progress to be made.

May the success of StartOut Australia's online mentoring program be a symbol of hope and resilience for everyone involved.

The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP  
Prime Minister of Australia

12 October 2017





**THE HON BILL SHORTEN MP  
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS AND  
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS  
MEMBER FOR MARIBYRNONG**

**STARTOUT LAUNCH**

On behalf of the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party, I congratulate StartOut on its launch this year. Thank you for your work supporting young LGBTIQ Australians.

Labor believes that LGBTIQ Australians should be treated equally and we remain committed to making marriage equality a reality.

Labor stands shoulder to shoulder with all young LGTBIQ people through the marriage equality survey period.

Counselling services and support networks, such as StartOut, play a critical role in our community during this time.

I again commend the work that StartOut is doing to support young Australians.

Under your leadership, I am confident that we can create a more inclusive society for our friends, family and fellow Australians.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Bill Shorten'.

BILL SHORTEN

