

**MEDIA RELEASE | 4 October 2017**

## **Australians are in a lather over legalising same sex marriage, but here in New Zealand we're well-ahead in the LGBTQI\* gender conversation...**

An upcoming TEDxWellingtonWomen event will roll-out a unique offer that breaks new ground for the popular global "ideas worth spreading" initiative.

Local organisers last night [Oct 3] announced its women's TEDx event on November 4 will walk the talk on gender diversity. Would-be delegates will only be able to register for two spaces – and then will be invited to bring someone who self-identifies as a different gender to themselves.

TEDxWellingtonWomen is a half-day event for 200 delegates featuring two 90-minute blocks of the main TEDWomen event streamed from New Orleans that will have taken place on 1-3 November. The theme this year is: 'Bridges'

Delegates will hear a selection of talks which include entrepreneurs, innovators, artists and activists—[bridge builders from around the world](#).

Short facilitated workshops to extend the conversation will take place after each of the screenings.

"Our local take on the TEDWomen Bridges theme has been to invite more voices to the gender conversation," says Hannah Wignall, a co-organiser of the event.

Producer and TEDxWellingtonWomen license holder, DK, says:"These are really important societal discussions we'll be having.

"I've been to several TEDxWomen events around the world and usually I'm one of the few men there, the others are usually speakers.

"After discussing this with the organising team, we felt it was really important to have all genders represented in the audience when we're talking about issues such as pay equity, as everyone becomes part of the solution.

"Keeping away from binary language that talked about women and girls, men and women, we decided TEDxWellingtonWomen would introduce a ticketing approach that would result in a gender parity audience which is totally unique for any TEDxWomen event."

This means that 'other half of the audience' did not necessarily need to be men.

Says Hannah:"Our aim is to expose Wellingtonians to a series of perspective-challenging ideas in what will be a safe environment - and it's as much about the listening as the talking."

This is the 13th TEDx event organised by DK and the TEDxWellington team in the capital. All have sold out, many within minutes or hours of ticket sales opening.

And it is the second time Wellington TEDx organisers have delivered a world-first for TED. In 2016, they organised an event that had 200 people not knowing where they were going or even who the

speakers / performers were for the day.

Delegates for the sold-out event boarded whited-out buses and entered Sir Peter Jackson's Park Road Post Production studios through a concealed entrance – so they didn't even know where they were when they arrived.

The fresh approach was to underscore the theme last year: Trust. [\[2016 Trust- themed TEDxWellington : 5-minute video\]](#)

The idea won the TEDxWellington organisers accolades from the TED organisation.

\* Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, and Intersex.

Fans can follow TEDxWellington on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) or [sign up for emails on the website](#) for news about tickets and other updates.

## **ENDS**

Media contacts not for publishing publicly:

DK - contactable through <http://www.tedxwellington.com/#contact>

## **About TEDx, x = independently organized event**

In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience. At a TEDx event, TEDTalks video and live speakers combine to spark deep discussion and connection in a small group. These local, self-organized events are branded TEDx, where x = independently organized TED event. The TED Conference provides general guidance for the TEDx program, but individual TEDx events are self-organized. (Subject to certain rules and regulations.)

## **About TED**

TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading, usually in the form of short, powerful talks (18 minutes or fewer) delivered by today's leading thinkers and doers. Many of these talks are given at TED's annual conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, and made available, free, on [TED.com](#). TED speakers have included Bill Gates, Jane Goodall, Elizabeth Gilbert, Sir Richard Branson, Monica Lewinsky, Philippe Starck, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Sal Khan and Daniel Kahneman.

TED's open and free initiatives for spreading ideas include [TED.com](#), where new TED Talk videos are posted daily; [the Open Translation Project](#), which provides subtitles and interactive transcripts as well as translations from thousands of volunteers worldwide; the educational initiative [TED-Ed](#); the annual million-dollar [TED Prize](#), which funds exceptional individuals with a "wish," or idea, to create change in the world; [TEDx](#), which provides licenses to thousands of individuals and groups who host local, self-organized TED-style events around the world; and the [TED Fellows](#) program, which selects innovators from around the globe to amplify the impact of their remarkable projects and activities.