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## **Australian bar bans heterosexuals**

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**29<sup>th</sup> May, 2007**

## THE ARTICLE

### **Australian bar bans heterosexuals**

In a landmark ruling, a gay pub in Australia has won the right to ban heterosexuals. The owner of Melbourne's Peel Hotel, Tom McFeely, said he fought for the right for his regular gay male customers to enjoy a quiet drink away from straight people and lesbians. He said his gay patrons needed to be able to freely express their sexuality. McFeely's victory came after the Equal Opportunity Commission accepted his argument that there weren't enough venues where homosexuals could feel safe and be free from harassment. McFeely said his pub used to welcome anyone. However, his gay clientele complained that they often felt like they were drinking in a zoo and that they were the main attraction.

Australia's equal opportunity laws prevent discrimination based on race, religion or sexuality. A spokeswoman for the Commission Cate McKenzie said if many heterosexual men and women came into the bar, they could outnumber the gay male patrons. She said "This would...destroy the atmosphere the hotel wishes to create." McFeely pointed out that the ruling was only being fair to a sizeable section of Melbourne's citizens. He commented that while there were over 2,000 bars in the city for heterosexuals, his hotel was the only place strictly for homosexual men. He added the new ruling would also prevent "sexually based insults and violence" towards gay drinkers at the pub. Not everyone is happy, though. The pub is one of the only places in the area that offers live music.

## WARM-UPS

**1. MY CLUB:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about the new place in town that is open only to you. After you finish, sit with your original partner(s) and share what you found out.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*landmarks / bans / gays / hotels / quiet drinks / freedom / harassment / zoos / discrimination / atmosphere / citizens / insults / violence / live music*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. XYZ-ONLY:** With your partner(s), talk about whether having exclusive clubs for particular groups of people is a good or bad thing. Why might these people want to socialize in a place just for them?

- homosexual men
- pensioners
- teachers
- people born in a particular city (Londoners, New Yorkers...)
- stamp collectors
- Microsoft Word lovers
- bald men
- people from one religion

**4. RIGHTS:** Which of these are important to you? Talk about them with your partner. Rank them: 10 = an issue very close to my heart; 1 = couldn't care less. Change partners to share and discuss your rankings.

- gay rights
- animal rights
- women's rights
- the rights of the unborn child
- refugee rights
- human rights
- English student rights
- other \_\_\_\_\_

**5. GAY:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "gay". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. QUICK DEBATE:** Have this quick debate with your partner(s). Students A think straight people should be allowed to drink in a bar for homosexuals; students B think there should be places to drink for homosexuals only. Change partners and topics every two minutes.

## BEFORE READING / LISTENING

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- a. A bar in Australia has banned straight customers. T / F
- b. The bar's owner wanted gay male customers to enjoy a quiet drink. T / F
- c. There are quite a few bars in Melbourne for gay men only. T / F
- d. Many gay men at the bar felt like they were animals in a zoo. T / F
- e. Australia's equal opportunity laws protect gay men. T / F
- f. There were more straight drinkers in the bar than gay patrons. T / F
- g. There are tens of thousands of heterosexual bars in Melbourne . T / F
- h. Everyone is happy that the bar is only for gay males. T / F

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| a. landmark       | places       |
| b. ruling         | abuse        |
| c. straight       | customers    |
| d. venues         | decision     |
| e. clientele      | prejudice    |
| f. discrimination | large        |
| g. atmosphere     | momentous    |
| h. sizeable       | only         |
| i. strictly       | mood         |
| j. insults        | heterosexual |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| a. In a landmark                               | and be free from harassment     |
| b. enjoy a quiet                               | section of Melbourne's citizens |
| c. his gay patrons needed to be able to freely | in a zoo                        |
| d. where homosexuals could feel safe           | race, religion or sexuality     |
| e. felt like they were drinking                | drink away from straight people |
| f. laws prevent discrimination based on        | for homosexual men              |
| g. This would...destroy the atmosphere         | ruling                          |
| h. being fair to a sizeable                    | violence towards gay drinkers   |
| i. the only place strictly                     | express their sexuality         |
| j. prevent sexually based insults and          | the hotel wishes to create      |

## WHILE READING / LISTENING

**GAP FILL:** Put the words into the gaps in the text.

### Australian bar bans heterosexuals

In a landmark \_\_\_\_\_, a gay pub in Australia has won the \_\_\_\_\_ to ban heterosexuals. The owner of Melbourne's Peel Hotel, Tom McFeely, said he \_\_\_\_\_ for the right for his regular gay male customers to enjoy a quiet drink \_\_\_\_\_ from straight people and lesbians. He said his gay patrons needed to be able to \_\_\_\_\_ express their sexuality. McFeely's victory came after the Equal Opportunity Commission accepted his argument that there weren't \_\_\_\_\_ venues where homosexuals could feel safe and be free from harassment. McFeely said his pub used to \_\_\_\_\_ anyone. However, his gay clientele complained that they often felt like they were drinking in a zoo and that they were the main \_\_\_\_\_.

*attraction*

*fought*

*freely*

*ruling*

*welcome*

*right*

*enough*

*away*

Australia's equal opportunity laws \_\_\_\_\_ discrimination based on race, religion or sexuality. A spokeswoman for the Commission Cate McKenzie said if many heterosexual men and women came into the bar, they could \_\_\_\_\_ the gay male \_\_\_\_\_. She said "This would...destroy the atmosphere the hotel wishes to \_\_\_\_\_." McFeely pointed out that the ruling was only being fair to a sizeable \_\_\_\_\_ of Melbourne's citizens. He commented that while there were over 2,000 bars in the city for heterosexuals, his hotel was the only place \_\_\_\_\_ for homosexual men. He added the new ruling would also prevent "sexually based \_\_\_\_\_ and violence" towards gay drinkers at the pub. Not everyone is happy, though. The pub is one of the only places in the area that \_\_\_\_\_ live music.

*offers*

*patrons*

*outnumber*

*strictly*

*create*

*prevent*

*section*

*insults*

## LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

### Australian bar bans heterosexuals

In a landmark ruling, a gay pub in Australia \_\_\_\_\_ ban heterosexuals. The owner of Melbourne's Peel Hotel, Tom McFeely, said he \_\_\_\_\_ his regular gay male customers to enjoy a quiet drink away from straight people and lesbians. He said his gay patrons \_\_\_\_\_ freely express their sexuality. McFeely's victory came after the Equal Opportunity Commission accepted his argument that \_\_\_\_\_ where homosexuals could feel safe and be free from harassment. McFeely said his pub used to welcome anyone. However, his gay clientele complained that \_\_\_\_\_ they were drinking in a zoo and that they \_\_\_\_\_.

Australia's \_\_\_\_\_ prevent discrimination based on race, religion or sexuality. A spokeswoman for the Commission Cate McKenzie said if many heterosexual men and women came into the bar, they \_\_\_\_\_ male patrons. She said "This would...destroy the atmosphere the hotel wishes to create." McFeely pointed out that the \_\_\_\_\_ a sizeable section of Melbourne's citizens. He commented that while there were over 2,000 bars in the city for heterosexuals, his hotel \_\_\_\_\_ for homosexual men. He added the new ruling would also prevent "sexually \_\_\_\_\_" towards gay drinkers at the pub. Not everyone is happy, though. The pub is \_\_\_\_\_ the area that offers live music.

## AFTER READING / LISTENING

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'gay' and 'straight'.

<b>gay</b>	<b>straight</b>
------------	-----------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• landmark</li><li>• fought</li><li>• freely</li><li>• accepted</li><li>• welcome</li><li>• zoo</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• based</li><li>• outnumber</li><li>• atmosphere</li><li>• section</li><li>• violence</li><li>• happy</li></ul>
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## STUDENT SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about SEXUALITY in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1	STUDENT 2	STUDENT 3
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.



## DISCUSSION

### STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) Do you think the landmark ruling is a good one?
- c) Do you think there should be more bars and clubs that strictly cater to different social groups?
- d) Do you think many straight people would be angry at the ruling?
- e) Have you ever had the feeling that you were in a zoo?
- f) What do you think of the idea of other places (shopping mall / beaches / movie theatres...) that are only for gay men?
- g) Do you think gay women would be angry at the ruling in the article?
- h) Have you ever been harassed?
- i) Have you ever been to a gay bar?
- j) Why do you think some people who hate gays and lesbians?



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### STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Do you think homophobia will disappear from the world one day?
- c) Do you ever stare at people because they are different?
- d) Do you think Australia is a fair and equal society?
- e) Does your government do a lot to promote equality?
- f) Is it fair that straight music lovers can't drink in the Peel Hotel?
- g) Is your country a fair one for homosexuals to live in?
- h) What kind of atmosphere do you like to feel in a bar?
- i) Do you feel any of your rights need addressing?
- j) Did you like this discussion?

**AFTER DISCUSSION:** Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.

- a) What was the most interesting thing you heard?
- b) Was there a question you didn't like?
- c) Was there something you totally disagreed with?
- d) What did you like talking about?
- e) Which was the most difficult question?

## LANGUAGE

**CORRECT WORD:** Put the correct words from a–d below in the article.

### Australian bar bans heterosexuals

In a landmark (1)\_\_\_\_, a gay pub in Australia has won the right to ban heterosexuals. The owner of Melbourne's Peel Hotel, Tom McFeely, said he (2)\_\_\_\_ for the right for his regular gay male customers to enjoy a (3)\_\_\_\_ drink away from straight people and lesbians. He said his gay patrons needed to be able to (4)\_\_\_\_ express their sexuality. McFeely's victory came after the Equal Opportunity Commission accepted his argument that there weren't enough venues where homosexuals could feel safe and be free (5)\_\_\_\_ harassment. McFeely said his pub used to welcome anyone. However, his gay clientele complained that they often felt like they were drinking in a zoo and (6)\_\_\_\_ they were the main attraction.

Australia's equal opportunity laws prevent discrimination based (7)\_\_\_\_ race, religion or sexuality. A spokeswoman for the Commission Cate McKenzie said if many heterosexual men and women came into the bar, they could (8)\_\_\_\_ the gay male patrons. She said "This would...destroy the atmosphere the hotel wishes (9)\_\_\_\_ create." McFeely pointed out that the ruling was only being fair to a sizeable section of Melbourne's citizens. He commented that (10)\_\_\_\_ there were over 2,000 bars in the city for heterosexuals, his hotel was the only place (11)\_\_\_\_ for homosexual men. He added the new ruling would also prevent "sexually based insults and violence" towards gay drinkers at the pub. Not everyone is happy, (12)\_\_\_\_. The pub is one of the only places in the area that offers live music.

- |     |              |                |              |               |
|-----|--------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) rules    | (b) ruling     | (c) rule     | (d) ruler     |
| 2.  | (a) fought   | (b) fight      | (c) beat     | (d) victory   |
| 3.  | (a) quite    | (b) quit       | (c) quiet    | (d) quietly   |
| 4.  | (a) frees    | (b) freedom    | (c) freely   | (d) free      |
| 5.  | (a) without  | (b) far        | (c) for      | (d) from      |
| 6.  | (a) which    | (b) that       | (c) what     | (d) than      |
| 7.  | (a) on       | (b) off        | (c) of       | (d) in        |
| 8.  | (a) numeral  | (b) numb       | (c) renumber | (d) outnumber |
| 9.  | (a) to       | (b) out        | (c) in       | (d) up        |
| 10. | (a) whole    | (b) while      | (c) which    | (d) when      |
| 11. | (a) stricter | (b) strictness | (c) strictly | (d) strict    |
| 12. | (a) thought  | (b) although   | (c) through  | (d) though    |



## **HOMEWORK**

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find more information about gay rights. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. RIGHTS POSTER:** Make a poster about how people from different countries have different rights. Show your poster to your class in the next lesson. Vote on the best one(s).

**4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about having different places (bars, shopping malls, train carriages...) that are strictly for different groups of people.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Which article was best and why?

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to Australia's Equal Opportunity Commissioner. Ask her three questions about her Commission's ruling. Give her three pieces of advice about what else she should do to further gay rights. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

## ANSWERS

### TRUE / FALSE:

- a. T      b. T      c. F      d. F      e. T      f. F      g. F      h. F

### SYNONYM MATCH:

- |                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| a. landmark       | momentous    |
| b. ruling         | decision     |
| c. straight       | heterosexual |
| d. venues         | places       |
| e. clientele      | customers    |
| f. discrimination | prejudice    |
| g. atmosphere     | mood         |
| h. sizeable       | large        |
| i. strictly       | only         |
| j. insults        | abuse        |

### PHRASE MATCH:

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| a. In a landmark                               | ruling                          |
| b. enjoy a quiet                               | drink away from straight people |
| c. his gay patrons needed to be able to freely | express their sexuality         |
| d. where homosexuals could feel safe           | and be free from harassment     |
| e. felt like they were drinking                | in a zoo                        |
| f. laws prevent discrimination based on        | race, religion or sexuality     |
| g. This would...destroy the atmosphere         | the hotel wishes to create      |
| h. being fair to a sizeable                    | section of Melbourne's citizens |
| i. the only place strictly                     | for homosexual men              |
| j. prevent sexually based insults and          | violence towards gay drinkers   |

### GAP FILL:

#### Australian bar bans heterosexuals

In a landmark **ruling**, a gay pub in Australia has won the **right** to ban heterosexuals. The owner of Melbourne's Peel Hotel, Tom McFeely, said he **fought** for the right for his regular gay male customers to enjoy a quiet drink **away** from straight people and lesbians. He said his gay patrons needed to be able to **freely** express their sexuality. McFeely's victory came after the Equal Opportunity Commission accepted his argument that there weren't **enough** venues where homosexuals could feel safe and be free from harassment. McFeely said his pub used to **welcome** anyone. However, his gay clientele complained that they often felt like they were drinking in a zoo and that they were the main **attraction**.

Australia's equal opportunity laws **prevent** discrimination based on race, religion or sexuality. A spokeswoman for the Commission Cate McKenzie said if many heterosexual men and women came into the bar, they could **outnumber** the gay male **patrons**. She said "This would...destroy the atmosphere the hotel wishes to **create**." McFeely pointed out that the ruling was only being fair to a sizeable **section** of Melbourne's citizens. He commented that while there were over 2,000 bars in the city for heterosexuals, his hotel was the only place **strictly** for homosexual men. He added the new ruling would also prevent "sexually based **insults** and violence" towards gay drinkers at the pub. Not everyone is happy, though. The pub is one of the only places in the area that **offers** live music.

### LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - b    2 - a    3 - c    4 - c    5 - d    6 - b    7 - a    8 - d    9 - a    10 - b    11 - c    12 - d