



## Media Release

### Launch of the Queensland Universities Diversity Network

**25 March 2016** - Last night, Out for Australia launched the Queensland Universities Diversity Network, a comprehensive network for university students, professionals and university staff on LGBTIQ+ leadership proudly supported by Aurizon.

The network will focus on what Universities can do to be more inclusive of LGBTIQ+ students, staff and professionals. The first forum focused on developing statewide benchmark policies to build stronger student networks and with the wider LGBTIQ+ community in Queensland. By strengthening policies and networks, LGBTIQ+ students and professionals can access more opportunities and support.

The launch of the Network was hosted in Brisbane by the University of Queensland Business School where 100 student and professional leaders of the LGBTIQ+ community lay the foundations of the Network and initiated the discussions to make Queensland campuses and businesses inclusive of LGBTIQ+ leaders.

Ms Terri Butler MP, Federal Member for Griffith, the event's keynote speaker and long-term ally of the LGBTIQ+ community, addressed the Network leaders directly focusing on the importance of regional outreach and diversity networks. "It's great to see regional communities involved and committed to being more inclusive. The way forward is to keep growing so we don't lose momentum," Ms Bulter said in her opening remarks.

Ms Rhiannon Kop, Chairperson of Aurizon's "All-in" Network made similar comments on the Network's vision and added "at Aurizon, we're serious about safety and we're serious about diversity. Now, for the first time, corporate Australia is beginning to see that the two are inseparable."

"This is all about diversity for the regions", said Luke Furness, Queensland Director of Out for Australia. "Queensland is not Brisbane. We have LGBTIQ+ students and communities all over Queensland and success cannot be achieved through a Diverse Brisbane, but a Diverse Queensland."

The launch also featured a panel of LGBTIQ+ leaders representing Queensland campuses comprised of:

- Emil Canita (Gender & Sexuality Vice-President, UQ Union)
- Kane Murrant (Secretary, Bond University Pride Alliance)
- Ben English (President, Pride of QUT)
- Stephanie Kameric (QLD Branch President, National Union of Students & 2015 President, Griffith University Student Representative Council)
- Ashley Bonnell (Cairns Convenor, James Cook University Pride Alliance) and
- Peter Black (QUT Law Professor & President of Brisbane Pride).

If you have any questions or would like to join future Network forums, please email Lucas Medcraft at [qldoutreach@outforaustralia.org](mailto:qldoutreach@outforaustralia.org)

The Network also announced that applications for the Out for Australia Mentoring Program (supported by Baker & McKenzie) are now open. More information can be found at <http://www.outforaustralia.org/#!mentoring-program/c21kz>

