

Anthony Venn-Brown

Ex-gay/Reparative/Conversion Therapy Authority

Formerly a leader in the Assemblies of God and regular preacher in mega-churches of Australia and overseas, for 22 years Anthony tried to change his homosexuality through psychiatric treatment, exorcisms, 'ex-gay' programs, 40-day fasts and daily struggles with his 'problem'. Although happily married for 16 years with two daughters, eventually he had to admit that nothing had changed. At this time, Anthony faced the toughest decision of his life; be true to himself (which would result in losing everything he held dear) or live a lie.

Anthony's autobiography, '[A Life of Unlearning](#)' became a bestseller in Australia. After selling out twice the 3rd edition has recently been release and the eBook became a bestseller on Amazon.com. An entire [chapter](#) is dedicated to his ex-gay experience in 1972.

In 2005 Anthony co-founded Freedom2b and under his six year leadership became the largest network of LGBT people from Christian backgrounds in Australia.. In 2013 he founded [Ambassadors & Bridge Builders International](#) which provides training and consultancy for churches, leaders, denominations and organisations about LGBT issues.

Anthony has been monitoring ex-gay/conversion/reparative activities/organisations in Australia and overseas since the late 90's. During this time he has gained a wealth of knowledge and experience working with people who have attended 'ex-gay' programs; assisting them to deal with the aftermath of a belief system that said, because they were same-sex-oriented, they were broken, dysfunctional and 'abnormal'.

- Over 15 years experience working with gay and lesbian people in heterosexual marriages and 'ex-gay' survivors
- Well read on the scientific research from both sides of the debate re changing sexual orientation
- Networked with similar advocacy and survivor international groups
- 2016 current project. Writing a book '*A personal and behind the scenes account of the rise and fall of conversion therapy*' globally and documenting Australia's role. To be released mid 2016.
- 2015 ACON Honour Awards. Winner of the Health and Wellbeing Award for working to bring ex-gay/reparative/conversion therapy practices and organisations to an end in Australia
- 2015 approached by Sensoria academic journal to write an [article](#) on ex-gay/reparative/conversion therapy
- 2014 Lodged submission ([No. 72, Mr Anthony Venn-Brown](#)) to NSW parliamentary inquiry on The Promotion of False or Misleading Health-Related Information or Practices re ex-gay/reparative/conversion therapies.
- 2014 [announced](#) the closure of Living Waters Australia and organised a [vigil](#) in memory of those we've lost and harmed through ex-gay/reparative/conversion organisations.
- 2014 [8 FACTORS THAT CREATED THE CLOSURE OF EXODUS](#)
- 2014 - 5 part series [A BEHIND THE SCENES ACCOUNT OF THE EXODUS CLOSURE](#)
- 2013 [Interviewed](#) Alan Chambers in the final hours of the last Exodus Conference
- 2013 Attended [the final Exodus International Conference](#) in California at the invitation of the president Alan Chambers
- 2012 Researched and [documented](#) the decline of ex-gay organisations in Australia and New Zealand
- 2012 Released [Ex-gay survivor Stories](#)
- 2011- 2012 Involved in initial stages of research for the documentary [The Cure](#), assisting with background information and contacts for the film makers. Also appeared in the documentary.
- 2011 [Successfully campaigned](#) for US 'ex-gay' Adam Hood's meetings to be closed down
- 2011 First presentation of [A Glimpse into Australia's Ex-gay World \(PP\)](#)
- 2010 '[Situational Heterosexuality](#)' - the most misunderstood concept in the 'ex-gay' and Christian worlds
- 2010 Organised a group of Ex-gay Survivors to march in the [Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras](#)
- 2009 Participated in the '[Ending the Harm Caused by Reparative Therapies Conference](#)' – Florida USA
- 2008 Launched [Ex-gay Australia, Asia, NZ & the Pacific](#)
- 2008 Released [20 Questions for "Ex-gay" Ministry Leaders](#)
- 2007 Organised and released statements and apologies from five former [Australian 'Ex-gay' Leaders](#)
- 2007 Attended the first '[Ex-gay Survivors Conference](#)' in California USA
- 2005 Co-founded [Freedom 2 b\[e\]](#), which has become Australia's largest network for LGBT people from Christian backgrounds
- 2000 Commenced an online support group [Exex-gay](#) for survivors of 'ex-gay' ministries with over 400 members.
- 1972 one of the first in the world to go through a formal 'ex-gay' program ([read entire chapter here](#))

In recognition of Anthony Venn-Brown's work he has received numerous awards including twice being voted one of the 25 Most Influential Gay & Lesbian Australians.

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For further information, please visit <http://www.abbi.org.au/>