

Anthony Venn-Brown

Media Profile



In a former life, Anthony was a leader in the Australian Christian Churches and high profile preacher in Australia's mega-churches, such as Hillsong. For 22 years he tried desperately to change his homosexuality through psychiatric treatment, exorcisms, and 'ex-gay' programs. Although a husband and father for 16 years, eventually he had to admit that nothing had changed. In 1991 faced the toughest decision of his life. Be true to himself and lose everything he held dear; or live a lie.

First released in 2004, Anthony's autobiography, '**A Life of Unlearning**' has impacted the lives of thousands of gay and straight individuals in Australia and around the world. The recently released third edition, quickly became #1 Bestseller on Amazon in both the Religious and also LGBT Biography categories.

He has appeared on national television shows such as '60 Minutes', 'Channel 7's Sunrise', 'The Morning Show', 'Mornings with Kerri Anne', the ABC's 'Hungry Beast', documentaries and is called upon regularly by the print and radio media for comment.

He is also the co-founder of Freedom2b. Under Anthony's six year leadership, Freedom2b has become Australia's foremost organisation for LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex) people from Christian backgrounds.

Anthony is now the founder and CEO of Ambassadors & Bridge Builders International (ABBI). ABBI is committed to overcoming the unnecessary suffering caused by ignorance and misinformation about sexual orientation by providing education, resources and creating dialogues with churches, leaders, denominations and Christian organisations.

Since 2000, Anthony has monitored ex-gay/reparative/conversion therapy activities in Australia, challenged false claims made by individuals and organisations and exposed the harm, During this time he has gained a wealth of experience and become Australia's foremost authority in this area..

In recognition of his contributions, Anthony Venn-Brown was twice voted one of **The 25 Most Influential Gay and Lesbian Australians** (2007 & 2009), was one of four finalists for the **2011 ACON Community Hero Award** and in 2012 was awarded **Life Membership for Outstanding Service** by the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Business Association. In 2016, Anthony was announced the winner of **ACON's Health and Wellbeing Award** for over 20 years of providing leadership and support for LGBTI people of faith and for working to bring ex-gay/reparative/conversion therapy practices and organisations to an end in Australia..

Media areas of expertise include:

- Christianity, religion and LGBTI equality
- Being gay or lesbian in a straight marriage
- Coming out
- Homophobia
- Ex-gay/reparative/conversion therapies and organizations
- LGBTI community issues
- Gay Christian movement
- Personal story – from high profile Pentecostal preacher to LGBT community leader

Anthony's journey from popular, 'straight' Christian preacher, resolving the perceived conflict between his faith and sexuality and now an ambassador for the LGBT community has given him unique insights. He provides a comfortable space where people can ask the often-unasked questions. Audiences quickly realise Anthony's credibility comes from not only being well researched but profound personal experience.

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