



JOY 94.9
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MEDIA RELEASE: JEFF KENNETT SAYS BEYONDBLUE AND JOY WILL WORK TOGETHER ON GLTBI HEALTH ISSUES

Jeff Kennett, Chairman of *beyondblue* and former Victorian Premier visited JOY 94.9 studios in Melbourne this morning for a long ranging interview to address recent criticisms in the media and in the GLTBI community with David McCarthy JOY President

David McCarthy said, "Jeff Kennett was very generous with his time this morning providing us with insights into his personal thoughts and the work of *beyondblue*. He acknowledged that our community has unique health challenges and he committed *beyondblue* to address them in their upcoming advocacy and work program".

In addressing criticisms about his views on same sex parenting, Jeff Kennett stressed, "... that children need a loving relationship with their parent, or parents, irrespective of their gender or sexuality".

"Mr Kennett asked that JOY collaborate with *beyondblue* in getting mental health messages to our community and offered *beyondblue* staff to be available to provide on-air updates on their work as it becomes available", said Mr McCarthy.

"I call on the (GLTBI) community to work with us. There is no point in *beyondblue* going out there with a half baked messages", Mr Kennett said referring to a campaign currently under development.

McCarthy said, "This is the start of a long journey to build on what *beyondblue* are already doing. We have the commitment of *beyondblue* to address our community's unique health challenges. That's what we asked for and got and it's now up to our community to engage and support this process."

The interview will be aired on JOY between 12.00 noon and 1.00 pm tomorrow on Dean Becks news and current affairs program *On The Line*. An extended version of the interview will be aired on JOY's popular Saturday Magazine show between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon Saturday 8 October 2011. A full version of the interview will be available via podcast on JOY's website www.joy.org.au.

Jeff Kennett agreed to become a JOY member on the proviso that JOY agrees to work collaboratively with *beyondblue* on the development of campaigns targeting the gay and lesbian community to address depression.

JOY94.9 is committed to providing a voice for the diverse lesbian and gay communities, enabling freedom of expression, the breaking down of isolation, and the celebration of gay and lesbian culture, achievements and pride.

Photo attached, Mr Jeff Kennett from *beyond*, David McCarthy and Greg Adkins from JOY Board

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