

LOSING FAITH

As part of Pride Week, Sydney University's Manning Bar hosted a discussion titled 'Is Religion Homophobic'?

Guest speakers included Anthony Venn-Brown, evangelist and former convert with ex-gay therapies, Penny Davis for Crave and the Metropolitan Community church, Kim Gottlieb, gay activist and member of queer Jewish group Dayenu, and finally Shenin Wong on behalf of Buddhists.

While the talk tried to answer an age-old question, Anthony's focus was on preaching, with the dais becoming another pulpit. Penny denied Christianity was homophobic, even though admitting there was a culture of hatred towards gays due to quotes in the Bible.

Kim confessed to participating in Orthodox Jewish discussion groups while retreating into the closet, and Shenin defended accusations the Dalai Lama rejected homosexuality as the Tibetan spiritual leader had since changed his mind.

Though little light was thrown on the subject, the debate did show many people were losing faith.

— *Stuart*