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HIGH COURT JUDGE JUSTICE MICHAEL KIRBY

BECAUSE he's the first openly gay High Court judge in Australia's judicial history.

BECAUSE it was about time.

BECAUSE he possesses boundless energy and unerring compassion.

BECAUSE refugees who seek new lives in Australia (surely one of the most marginalised groups in this country)

have an outspoken ally in Kirby, one who masterfully uses reason, eloquence and understanding to argue their case. And he urges us to see refugees as we see ourselves – as people aspiring to life, dignity and hope.

BECAUSE Australia needs more superior thinkers willing to claim their place on the world stage.

BECAUSE he entreated a bunch of schoolboys to "stand up against hatred and prejudice", while at the same time branding it "unreasonable" to expect homosexuals to stay celibate.

BECAUSE at the end of the 20th century, this still-sparked national outrage.

BECAUSE he calls on us all to be greater than we thought we were.

BECAUSE he's considered adventurous by the legal fraternity for no other reason than he attempts to do what's right (haven't they heard of bungee jumping?).

BECAUSE no matter how serious he may appear, he gets the joke.

BECAUSE he was so moved by his experiences of injustice as a young lawyer, that he waited patiently for the opportunity to overturn those unjust laws, as a judge, many years later in his career.

BECAUSE he was charmingly honest enough to admit in his book, *Through the World's Eye*, "I would not wish the reader to think that I have saved up memories of rank injustices over my professional life that I am merely waiting for the chance to cure. But I have. And I will!"

BECAUSE he's a dead set legend.