



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S ACTION ALLIANCE [WAWAA]

Australian Human Rights Commission
legal@humanrights.gov.au

29 August 2023

Dear Commissioners,

Re: Letter of support for the Lesbian Action Group for a temporary exemption to the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth)

The Western Australian Women's Action Alliance (WAWAA) supports the Lesbian Action Group in its determination to organise public single sex events for lesbians.

Diversity and inclusion does not require that all events are open to all people. We support the right of groups to organise targeted events, in aid of broader social inclusion, political engagement, community building, and self-determination. Lesbians face double discrimination as homosexuals and as women. Positioned on the intersection of sexism and homophobia, it is imperative that lesbians are able to freely gather without risk of harassment or abuse, or threats to their livelihood or of prosecution.

The prevention of lesbian-only events indicates that female self-determination is still seen as a threat to the social order, in which female interests remain subordinated to male interests and that of broader society. Furthermore, a refusal to grant an exemption to allow single-sex lesbian organising is a clear message that female homosexuality remains suspect, and an appropriate target for government discrimination.

It is unclear how government bodies are able to justify their opposition to single sex lesbian gatherings while championing diversity and inclusion for other groups across society.

We call on the Australian Human Rights Commission to grant an exemption to the Lesbian Action Group. As we support the diversity of community organising across Australia for all groups, so we support the rights of lesbians to meet as a community.

Yours Faithfully,

The Women of WAWAA
Western Australian Women's Action Alliance