

Submission from Women's Rights Network Australia

To the Australian Human Rights Commission

Regarding Lesbian Action Group's Application for Exemption

Sent from australia@womensrights.network on August 22, 2023



Women's Rights Network Australia (WRNA) is a grassroots organisation of volunteer women across Australia that advocate for and protect the sex-based rights of women and girls. We do this because women and girls (females) are a distinct and separate sex-class from men and boys (males) with our own distinct and separate sex-based needs and rights.

At times, it is perfectly acceptable and appropriate to discriminate against or for different groups of people. This is particularly true and relevant when it comes to the discrimination of men and boys for the benefit of women and girls. The mere presence of a man or boy is more than enough to alter the environment, atmosphere and risks of any given event or place for women and girls.

Women and girls need select spaces away from men and boys; this includes bathrooms, changerooms, sporting categories, prisons and refuges, and public and/or private gatherings and events. This is a sex-based right.

It is indirect discrimination of women and girls to not provide sex-specific spaces based on their unique biological needs because without such provisions women and girls are unnecessarily disadvantaged.

Same-sex sexual orientation is also a protected characteristic.

Lesbians are females that are same-sex attracted. By extension, the right to single-sex/same-sex spaces and services is that of lesbians. This includes the right to their own events and public or private gatherings. They should not be intimidated, harassed or encroached upon by men and boys.

WRNA fully supports the application for an exemption lodged by Lesbian Action Group (linked below) and we look forward to the AHRC approving their application.

https://humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/lesbian_action_group_application_for_a_temporary_exemption_redacted_0.pdf

Sincerely,

Women's Rights Network Australia