

27th September 2023

Response to AHRC Preliminary View on the exemption application from Lesbian Action Group to organise and publicly advertise events for lesbians born female.

I write to seek clarification of several contradictory points in the AHRC preliminary view.

1. **Section 7.31** – *the exemption would amount to unlawful discrimination to exclude Heterosexual, Bisexual, and Gay males, Heterosexual and Bisexual females, Transgender people and Queer plus people.*

I contend that several of these groups have their own ‘only’ events which exclude Lesbians. The application is on the basis of our sex and our sexual orientation, which make us a vulnerable and protected category. Why is our vulnerability being ignored in favour of gender identity?

2. **Section 7.37** – *Evidence must be compelling.*

Examples of compelling evidence:

- a) The closure of many Lesbian venues and dating websites, after men who self id as a Lesbian, made sexual demands on females who are same-sex attracted. The growing number of men demanding access to female born Lesbians, caused these places to close due to the constant pressure of men.
- b) The old joke that men would often use – “oh then, I must be a Lesbian” has become our reality, our nightmare. It is not a joke anymore, but our forced reality.
- c) Lesbians have returned to holding events underground i.e., in private homes. In 2023, this is compelling evidence of oppression and fear, to be who we are, female born Lesbians. Females who have lived their lives with constant male attention, threats to be fucked straight, family disownment, living in the closet at work and with some friendships.

The request for an exemption for these reasons, do not discriminate against others but to hold events where we feel safe and able to be freely female born lesbians.

3. **Section 7.42** *‘the Commission acknowledges that lesbians in Australia have faced structural and entrenched discrimination, both historically and in the present day.’*

This statement is correct and I thank the commission for this recognition of our continued struggle. However, if this is true, why then do the rights of others usurp our rights, given the continued present-day challenges.

I ask that you reconsider your response and allow female born Lesbians to have the right to gather without fear of oppressive forced teaming of gender identify.

Thank you for your consideration of my letter.