



PRESS RELEASE

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Lesbians discriminated against by anti-discrimination commissioner

The Tasmanian Anti-Discrimination commissioner, Sarah Bolt, has discriminated against lesbian females by rejecting their application for approval of a lesbian only event that excludes males. LGB Alliance Australia assisted a member of the public (Jessica Hoyle) with preparing an event for lesbians only. This event is not hosted by LGB Alliance Australia. We are an advocacy group for same-sex attracted individuals however support the premise for the event.

As a sexual minority, lesbians should have the right to meet in the presence of other lesbians, free from males. As other minority groups have events for their own community, including trans-only events, we feel this is a reasonable request. In similar examples, we believe that religious women should be free to have female-only bathing sessions at public pools outside of the male gaze. Domestic violence refuges and shelters should be provide female-only exemptions that exclude males. This case is no different to these examples, which protects the rights of women.

As LGB Alliance Australia, our focus is on the needs and interests of lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals. We're concerned about the conflicts of interest between LGB rights and TQ rights introduced by moves in law and policy to replace sex with gender identity. As homosexuality and bisexuality are based around same-sex sexual orientation, LGB people are greatly harmed by the erasure of sex as a protected characteristic.

We fully support trans people in their struggle for dignity, respect and a life lived free from bigotry and fear. We don't hate trans people and we don't wish to see them erased. We fully support them in organising their own events and inviting them into our own mixed events.

However the issues and priorities for people who are attracted to the same-sex (homosexual/bisexual) are different from those of transgender people, and so, with a number of organisations focused on trans people and trans issues, our focus is on lesbians, gay men, and bisexual people and their issues.

With this event, we are interested in the needs of lesbians. This event will be for lesbian women i.e. female homosexuals. We do not want male participants attending regardless of how they identify, given this is a lesbian social event. This is an event to celebrate and in particular, provide a safe venue without unwanted presence or attention of male-bodied people.

Here is the letter we wrote on [behalf of Jessica Hoyle to Sarah Bolt](#) and here is the [response](#) from Sarah Bolt. Here is our [appeal letter](#) to the Ombudsman.