

6 December 2019

Australian Human Rights Commission
GPO Box 5218
Sydney NSW 2001
By email: freeandequal@humanrights.gov.au

Dear Madam / Sir,

Endorsement: Submission by Human Rights in Childbirth (HRiC)

The Equality Rights Alliance wishes to strongly endorse the submission of HRiC to the *Free & Equal: An Australian Conversation of Human Rights* consultation.

Equality Rights Alliance is Australia's largest network advocating for women's equality, women's leadership and recognition of women's diversity. We bring together 65 organisations with an interest in advancing women's equality. Our members are non-government organisations and social enterprises with a focus on the impact of policy or service delivery on women.

ERA believes the advancement of women and the achievement of equality are matters of fundamental human rights and we advocate for gender equality, women's leadership and government policy responses that support women's diversity.

The submission by HRiC highlights an important area often overlooked in Australian human rights discussions. Maternity and childbirth are areas where broadly positive statistics regarding outcomes mask serious underlying failures to respect women's bodily autonomy and human rights. We also have concerns about discrepancies in equity of access to maternal, sexual and reproductive health care for different populations of women across Australia. We strongly support the Commission considering this area in depth.

We would be happy to speak further or answer any questions you might have about this letter. I can be contacted at erea@ywca.org.au or on 0413 065 822.

Yours sincerely,



Helen Dalley-Fisher
Program Manager

Equality Rights Alliance

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