

Australian Human Rights Commission
Human Rights Commissioner
Level 3, 175 Pitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Via email: sogii@humanrights.gov.au

1 February 2015

To the Human Rights Commissioner,

Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Intersex ('SOGII') Rights Snapshot Report consultation

Thank you for providing Rainbow Territory with the opportunity to provide a submission as part of the SOGII Rights Snapshot Report consultation.

About Rainbow Territory

Formed in September 2014, Rainbow Territory is an unfunded Northern Territory community group that advocates for the human rights of Northern Territorians who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex ('LGBTQI'). Rainbow Territory aims to develop a safer, fairer and a more inclusive Northern Territory.

Our submission will address the following focus area:

What legal barriers exist to SOGII rights?

We have had the opportunity to review the submission provided by the Darwin Community Legal Service ('DCLS'), and concur with their summary of the legal barriers that impinge on the rights of LGBTQI people.

The issues outlined in the DCLS submission are important to our community, and are supported by the preliminary results of a community survey currently being undertaken by Rainbow Territory. The survey* of 46 LGBTQI people living in the Northern Territory ranked the following legal issues as the most pressing and in need of reform:

- The absence of protection from discrimination on the basis of 'gender identity' in the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1992* (NT).
- The exemptions in the *Sex-Discrimination Act 1984* (Cth) allowing religious educational authorities to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status; and
- The absence of protection against vilification on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1992* (NT).

The brevity of our submission can be attributed to the fact Rainbow Territory is still in the early stages of establishment and is working to formalise our priorities for the next 12 months. However, we would welcome the opportunity to have future dialogue with the Australian Human Rights Commission with respect to how the rights of LGBTQI people living in the Northern Territory can be strengthened.

* which does not purport to be representative of the Northern Territory LGBTQI population.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this submission.

Warm regards,

Alex O'Donnell

(On behalf of Rainbow Territory)

* which does not purport to be representative of the Northern Territory LGBTQI population.