



QUEENSLAND WOMEN'S ACTION ALLIANCE (QWAA)

Australian Human Rights Commission
legal@humanrights.gov.au

3 October 2023

Dear Commissioners,

Re: AHRC's preliminary view in relation to application by Lesbian Action Group for a temporary exemption to the *Sex Discrimination Act 1984* (Cth)

The Queensland Women's Action Alliance (QWAA) is very disappointed to learn that the preliminary view of the Australia Human Rights Commission is to *not* provide an exemption to the Lesbian Action Group of Victoria to allow them to meet exclusively with other lesbians.

This decision effectively removes the rights of women — and in this case, lesbians — to have free association in Australia. Your preliminary view makes it impossible for women who are sexually attracted to other women to meet. This view is both deeply homophobic and misogynistic.

As stated in our previous letter of support, a lesbian is a woman, an adult human female, who is exclusively attracted to other women. Allowing the inclusion of males in lesbian groups effectively eliminates lesbian groups in Australia. This is unacceptable and regressive to human rights in Australia and, ironically, will only serve to further sex-based discrimination against women and girls.

We encourage the commission to provide the Lesbian Action Group with an exemption under the *Sex Discrimination Act 1984* (Cth). Surely the commission can permit a small group of lesbians to meet freely and hold events for lesbians in Australia in the year 2023.

Yours Faithfully,

Emma Goodwill
Founder
Queensland Women's Action Alliance (QWAA)