



MEDIA RELEASE 23 AUGUST 2024

GENDER IDENTITY TRUMPS SEX IN FEDERAL COURT RULING

It is confirmed: the Sex Discrimination Act no longer protects women (people of female sex). Precedence is once again given to gender identity.

This morning Federal Court Justice Robert Bromwich handed down his long-awaited decision in Roxanne Tickle vs Giggle for Girls and Sall Grover. Tickle had brought a case of discrimination on the basis of gender identity against Giggle and Grover. In 2023 it was referred for hearing in the Federal Court.

Justice Bromwich found that Giggle and Grover had operated indirect discrimination against Tickle, who was born male but is now officially registered as female in Queensland. He did not return a finding of direct discrimination. Grover has been ordered to pay damages of \$10,000 to Tickle within 60 days, and to pay Tickle's costs, which will be capped at \$50,000.

Australian Feminists for Women's Rights (AF4WR) are appalled at this judgment. It confirms, once again, that women no longer have the right to gather together without the presence of males who "identify" as women. It cements in law the obvious falsehood that, in the words of the judge, "sex is changeable."

"If such a judgment were handed down against an Indigenous group for excluding a white person who 'identified' as Indigenous, people would be outraged, and rightly so," said AF4WR co-convenor, Emeritus Professor Bronwyn Winter.

"Yet, women are expendable and our needs must be placed at the service of men's sense of entitlement (whatever their 'gender identity'). Clearly, the Sex Discrimination Act, as amended in 2013, is no longer fit for purpose. It no longer offers women the protections that it was legislated to guarantee in 1984. If our federal government really is serious about defending women's rights, safety and freedoms, then it must ensure that all federal legislation serves this purpose, rather than undermining it."

It is likely that Sall Grover will appeal the decision.

For comment, contact Prof. Bronwyn Winter at 0412 770 424.