



MEDIA RELEASE

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The Equality Bill means *inequality* for NSW women

The NSW Parliament must protect women and girls and reject the Equality (LGBTQI+) Bill expected to be debated tomorrow.

Australian Feminists for Women's Rights (AF4WR) is calling on all MPs act to ensure that the rights of women and girls to single sex spaces, services and sport remain in place.

Far from being a bill focused on 'equality', this is a dangerous piece of legislation that will cause harm to women, children, gay and lesbian citizens, and families. It will:

- Allow any man to falsify their birth certificate and "identify" as female by signing a statutory declaration – giving men access to women's sports, change rooms, shelters, services and other spaces.
- Allow children to change their legal sex without parental knowledge.
- Allow people to register as any sex they choose, including nonsensical descriptors such as "genderqueer".
- Remove offences relating to prostitution, encouraging the exploitation of women.
- Infringe on freedom of speech and association.
- Open the door to commercial surrogacy in NSW.

The bill would legalise the fiction that there are more than two sexes and that it is possible to change sex. This will have a profound effect on the provision of sex-segregated services, and will prevent collection of meaningful statistics to measure and monitor the effects of public policy including the pay gap, poverty statistics, violence against women and health outcomes.

AF4WR has been working with other women's rights organisations and LGB groups for more than 12 months, talking to Ministers and MPs about the bill. Many Labor members expressed serious concerns about the impact of the bill on women, yet they are being forced to vote in favour of it or risk expulsion from the party.

A lower house inquiry into the Bill heard from a range of organisations about the dangers it poses. AF4WR provided an [extensive submission](#) to the inquiry.

AF4WR Co-Convenor Emeriitus Professor Bronwyn Winter said:

"We are a left-wing organisation but this is too important an issue to play politics with. Women's rights and the welfare of children are being sacrificed to meet the demands of a small number of men. There are *no* circumstances that make it acceptable to ride roughshod over the rights of more than half the Australian population. The ALP is losing many lifelong Labor voters over this: it needs to start listening to women."

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