



Federal Court upholds principle of equality of human rights for lesbians

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Australian Feminists for Women's Rights (AF4WR) applaud today's Federal Court decision to allow the appeal of the Lesbian Action Group (LAG) against the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC).

In 2023, the Commission had refused LAG an 'exemption' under the Sex Discrimination Act (1984, as amended 2013), which would have allowed them to organise events for women (born female) only, without the presence of males.

Justice Moshinsky of the Federal Court took barely a few minutes to set aside a January, 2025 Administrative Review Tribunal (ART) decision denying LAG's appeal against the AHRC.

'This outcome not only makes sense—especially for lesbians, who are people *of female sex* attracted to other people of female sex—but it also has potential implications for the wider restoration of women's hard-won rights to our own spaces and sex-based protections,' said Emeritus Professor Bronwyn Winter, co-convenor of AF4WR. **'We can only hope that our Courts will continue to follow the lead shown by the UK Supreme Court in upholding sex-based rights for women, thus returning our Sex Discrimination Act to being fit for purpose.'**

The case will now be referred back to the ART ('differently constituted') for a new determination.

For further information, contact AF4WR at info@af4wr.org.au, or phone xxxxxxxxxx.

Australian Feminists for Women's Rights (AF4WR) is an incorporated association of feminists from all over Australia campaigning for women's sex-based rights protections, within a broader context of social and economic justice for all.

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