



3 June 2026

The Hon. Anthony Albanese  
Prime Minister of Australia

Dear Prime Minister,

**Re: The misrepresentation of women's sex-based rights**

Australian Feminists for Women's Rights writes to reintroduce itself as a national feminist organisation, representing the political left and campaigning for the rights of women and girls. Many of our members and committee members are also members of the Australian Labor Party.

We draw to your attention the current media misrepresentation of the debate over women's sexbased rights as a "culture war". You will be aware of, and indeed have commented on, the increased attention to this issue that has arisen in the aftermath of the Full Federal Court appeal decision in the Giggle v Tickle matter handed down on 15 May last.

The Court found that the current interpretation of the relevant sections of the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 is that a male identifying as a transwoman is deemed female for the purposes of the Act. Public debate over this decision has highlighted that it is inconsistent with community opinion and with the stated intent of the Act. The decision represents a regression in the status of women in Australia and is raising considerable alarm in the Australian electorate.

We note that your commentary regarding this matter included a reference to the "culture war" characterisation ([Interview with Patricia Karvelas on ABC Radio National, 28 May](#)). It is of immense concern that this misrepresentative view was expressed by you. The core of this issue is the ordinary expectation that females in this country retain distinct identity in law as intended under the Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Indeed, the Sex Discrimination Act was introduced in 1983 by the then newly elected ALP government with the specific purpose of translating CEDAW into Australian law. It was a much-celebrated achievement of that government and we are aghast that thirty years later a different Labor government enacted [changes to the Act](#) that have directly undermined women's sex-based rights and resulted in the current controversies.

The recognition of women as a sex class cuts across the political spectrum. Increasing numbers of women are hearing from their ALP representatives that they cannot voice their legitimately held expectations and views on this matter. It is driving a political wedge through the community, creating increasingly hostile interactions and threatening social cohesion.

As the leader of the country, we look to you to represent women and indeed, to act on your commitment—also clearly made in the 28 May interview—to protecting women and to the importance of women-only spaces to enable this objective to be fully realised. However, those protections can only be achieved by clearly defining women for the purpose of all legislation, including in the Act.

It is neither controversial nor discriminatory to recognise that humans do not change sex, and the purpose of the Act is to recognise sex as a defined and protected category. Until the ALP finally acknowledges that the 2013 amendments to the Act render it no longer fit for that purpose, sections of the electorate—including a number of formerly lifelong Labor voters—will flock to right wing parties who appear to be finally addressing this issue, but in ways that ultimately we may not welcome.

We call on you to hear the women of the left who have been raising these matters with your office and within the Party across the country for some years now. The Sex Discrimination Act must be amended to clearly protect women and girls. Your leadership can help restore the faith placed in you at the last election and the political confidence of the country by addressing this fundamental issue and ensuring lawful protections for all on the basis of sex.

Yours sincerely



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