24 July 2020

Our Ref: 2020/322268

File No: S116516.004

Anna Kerr

Principal Solicitor

Feminist Legal Clinic

PO Box 273

Summer Hill NSW 2130

By email: anna@feministlegal.org

Dear Anna

**Re: Feminist Legal Clinic Accommodation Grants Program tenancy**

Further to our conversation on 23 July 2020, I am writing to confirm that the Feminist Legal Clinic has received a “B” rating in the 2020 Accommodation Grants Program annual review. The City is committed to working with you to ensure that the requirements of tenancy through the Accommodation Grants Program are met.

**Program requirements and contractual obligations**

Condition 5 of the General Performance Criteria of your licence with the City requires Feminist Legal Clinic to *“ensure services and programs are delivered in a manner that is inclusive and free of discrimination (including attitudinal barriers)”.*

The City’s Ethics Framework states that the City of Sydney will not support any activities or entities that are considered to unnecessarily “*discriminate… on the basis of race, religion or sex in employment, marketing or advertising practices* or *contribute to the inhibition of human rights generally*”.

**Compliance with requirements and obligations**

A review of the Feminist Legal Clinic website and events offered and promoted through the Clinic was conducted by the City. As a result, the City is of the view that Feminist Legal Clinic is currently in contravention of the requirements detailed above. A summary of some of the information that was reviewed to reach this determination is attached to this letter.

In particular, the City is of the view that:

* the Feminist Legal Clinic’s affiliation with the Women’s Sex Based Rights movement; and
* certain published material and events

promote an agenda which is in conflict with the performance criteria and framework applying to accommodation grants program tenants, and has the potential for generating discrimination and negative attitudes towards the transgender members of our community.

**Next steps**

In order to remain within the City’s Accommodation Grants Program, you must:

1. ensure within three months that your website is free of material that could be considered to breach the conditions listed above; and
2. immediately cease hosting or promoting events, publishing social media posts, or distributing newsletters and other publications that could be considered a breach of the conditions listed above.

City staff will consult with you regularly about progress, and conduct regular reviews of material to ensure compliance with the above. Failure to comply to the City’s satisfaction will result in the Clinic being rated “C” in the next annual review, or the earlier termination of your tenancy in accordance with clauses 20.2 and 20.3 of the licence.

I note that you were advised of our concerns in writing on 28 February and in a conversation with City staff on 16 March this year. A copy of this previous correspondence is attached.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Yours faithfully



Kirsten Woodward

Manager Social Programs and Services

City Life

**Attachment - Examples of publications reviewed by the City**

**Article on FLC Website  under ‘Projects’ -  ‘*Impacts of Transactivism on the Human Rights of Women and Girls***

This article promotes negative attitudes and concerns about transgender women, uses inflammatory language and conflates transgenderism with child abuse, rape and paedophilia.

The article notes: *Tension in relation to transgenderism has also been evident in the anxiety surrounding the Safe Schools Program. This opposition extends beyond the Christian lobby and conservative forces. Many feminists… have raised concerns about the content being taught in relation to transgenderism. There are concerns that the use of puberty blockers and early hormone treatment may in fact constitute a form of child abuse and that promoting these measures to children is anything but safe.*

**Article on FLC Website – under News Digest - *“What was happening before ‘Just be nice feminism’- part 1.* Also published on FaceBook page**

Article referring to earlier articles/newspapers, containing quotes stating that states that transsexualism is antithetical to the feminist movement and a ‘form of male supremacy’ and the following quotation ‘there exists a possibility of extremely militant (to the point of violence etc) groups of transvestites developing on a national scale within the very near future’.

This article generates a negative and/or fearful attitude towards transgender people, and could be seen to encourage discrimination.

**Article showing a cartoonist’s depiction of allowing men into women’s only spaces**

Published along with an article that was a right of reply of the cartoonist who was ‘cancelled’ from the newspaper she worked for following public outrage after publication of her cartoon.

The cartoon depicts transgender women as a predatory crocodile.