

12 October 2020

Our Ref: 2020/434398
File No: S116516.004

Anna Kerr
Principal Solicitor
Feminist Legal Clinic Inc
PO Box 273
Summer Hill, NSW 2130
By email: anna@feministlegal.org

Dear Anna

Re: Feminist Legal Clinic (FLC) Accommodation Grants Program tenancy

We apologise for the delay in our reply, however, we needed time to carefully consider your response to the concerns we raised in our meeting on 23 July, and your subsequent letter of 28 July.

To clarify, the City remains very supportive of the community legal work of the Feminist Legal Clinic, and we note many excellent case studies in your most recent Annual Report. Further, the City has never stated that it takes issue with FLC providing services specifically benefitting women or FLC communicating with its supporters and clients through its website.

It is accepted that certain information and articles posted on the FLC website could be considered to legitimately facilitate discussion and debate. The City does not take issue with publications that are balanced and based on empirical research and data.

The City's concerns stem from some of the material posted on the FLC website which in the City's view breaches section 38S of the Anti-Discrimination Act, the terms of FLC's licence and the City of Sydney Ethics Framework. It is this material that is unacceptable to the City. By publishing this material on the website owned and controlled by FLC, FLC is aware of and takes responsibility for the dissemination and communication of this material to the public (*Clinch v Rep (No. 2) (Discrimination)* [2020] ACAT 68).

FLC has an obligation to comply with Anti-Discrimination legislation and not incite discrimination on the basis of gender identity. The City will review FLC's website on an ongoing basis to ensure its compliance with Anti-Discrimination legislation and its licence. If FLC posts material on its website, or otherwise publishes material that:

- is not associated with the operation of its legal practice; or
- is not balanced and based on empirical research and data; or
- could objectively be considered to incite hatred towards, serious contempt for or severe ridicule towards any person or group of persons; or
- is not respectable discourse;

the City will require FLC to remove the material or publication. If FLC fails to comply with these requests, the City will view this as an ongoing failure to comply with the General Performance Criteria under the licence.

As a first step FLC is requested to review its website and remove any publication that does not comply with the requirements listed above within fourteen days of the date of this letter.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you at the earliest opportunity to discuss these matters with you further and look forward to hearing from you in this regard.

Kindest regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Woodward". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kirsten Woodward
Manager Social Programs and Services
City Life