newsletter



It has been a tough quarter for Feminist Legal Clinic with our work for the Women's Human Rights Campaign (WHRC) resulting in our tenancy at Benledi House in Glebe being put at risk. This matter is unresolved at this point and we will update members when we know more. Thank you to those of you who wrote to the City of Sydney Council advocating on our behalf. It was deeply appreciated.

However, the importance of our work in this area is reflected in the media attention given to two recent decisions.

Clinch v Rep

The disappointing decision in this case can be accessed <u>here</u>. The earlier decision in relation to jurisdiction is also available <u>here</u>. We have been instructed to appeal. Below is our media release and links to coverage received, both here and overseas.

<u>Free Speech and Human Rights of Women undermined</u> <u>by ACAT decision</u>

Maya Forstater on Twitter

<u>Pay Up, Buttercup</u>, Kellie-Jay Keen (Posie Parker), 9 September 2020

<u>Free Speech in Play over Women's Sport</u>, The Australian, 11 September 2020.

Woman Fined For 'Liking' 'Offensive' Facebook Comments About Transgender-Identifying Activist, Women are Human, 10 September 2020

Newsreader is ordered to pay Australia's first transgender solider \$10,000 for liking 'offensive' Facebook comments that wrongly branded her 'a male bully', Daily Mail, 9 September 2020.

Canberra Radio News Reader Beth Rep told to pay transgender activist Bridget Clinch \$10,000 compensation for discrimination, ABC News, 8 September 2020

Re Imogen

This judgement can be accessed here. There is also an earlier decision in this matter refusing an application to intervene which is available here. Details of legal representatives, treating health practitioners and the parties have been suppressed by order of the court and in accordance with s121 of the Family Law Act (Imogen is a pseudonym).

Re Imogen is also a case attracting international interest. Below are links to coverage:

A child's consent to transition - The view from Down Under, Child Protection Resource,

A window opens on how doctors treat troubled transgender teens, Mercatornet, 14 September 2020

<u>Court approves treatment for transgender teen amid</u> <u>parental dispute</u>, SMH 11 September 2020.

Judge warns doctors over teen trans hormone consent

Articles & Submissions



Our interview with Charmaigne Weldon has now been published:

Escaping Family Violence – How the Justice System is failing Aboriginal Women, Charmaigne Weldon interviewed by Anna Kerr, Precedent, Issue 159, July/August 2020

We also made the following submissions this quarter:

Submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs for the Inquiry into family, domestic and sexual violence, July 2020.

Submission to Office for the High Commissioner of Human Rights regarding strengthening the UN Treaty Body System, 2 July 2020.

And one of our past articles opposing surrogacy was also recently cited in this piece: Why is surrogacy illegal in most of the world? Dissident Voice, 11 July 2020.

Our <u>submission on behalf of WHRC to Australia's</u> <u>Third Universal Periodic Review</u> also attracted some commentary on social media.

Meetings & Presentations

During the quarter we have attended many meetings including of a meeting non-government organisations with the Attorney-General's Department on 23 July to discuss Australia's upcoming Universal Periodic Review (URP) by the United Nations and also a meeting of Australian delegates at Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation Summit on 22 July.

During the quarter Anna also provided a presentation on the proposal to introduce legislation criminalising coercive control to the National Council of Women of NSW on 27 August and also appeared as a panel member on Feminist Question Time hosted by the International Women's Human Rights Campaign on 30 August.

Women Write Wiki

WWW has continued to meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Group members have been involved in a number of projects associated with Wikipedia, including the National Gallery of Australia's NGA Wiki Club, Louise Mayhew's QAGOMA four-week editing circle and monthly meetings of Aotearoa New Zealand Online (the NZ Wikipedia meetup) and the Wellington, New Zealand meetups – all of which have been held online.

WWW facilitator Ann Reynolds has presented introductory Wikipedia training to librarians at the University of Newcastle and participants at their Missed in History edit-a-thon in History Week 2020. Margaret Donald provided expert assistance at the edit-a-thon.

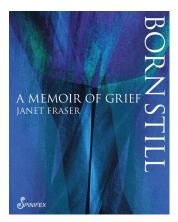
Rather than focusing on creating new articles about women, the WWW group is also working on writing the women into existing articles where their contribution has otherwise been overlooked.

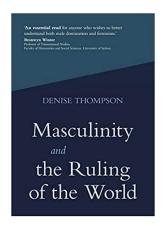
New members are welcome and introductory one-on-one Wikipedia training is available on request via Zoom or equivalent.

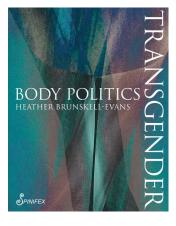


Women's Human Rights Campaign

WHRC Aus/NZ has commenced local webinars on the last Saturday of each month at 7pm. As an FLC member and/or signatory of the Declaration you will receive zoom invites. The first webinar on Saturday 26 September was hosted by Holly Lawford-Smith and featured speakers Mia Campione, Janet Fraser, Elizabeth Johnson and Bronwyn Williams and attracted 46 attendees.









Book Launches

There are plenty of new books for radical feminists to read! We co-hosted the launch of Denise Thompson's book, *Masculinity and the Ruling of the World*, at The Women's Library on 7 August (hopefully the video should be available soon) and attended the Spinifex launch of FLC committee member Janet Fraser's book *Born Still: A Memoir of Grief* on 27 August and the WHRC launch of Sheila Jeffreys' book *Trigger Warning: My Lesbian Feminist Life* on 5 September (also a Spinifex title).

We note there is also an <u>upcoming Spinifex launch</u> of Heather Brunskell Evans book, *Transgender Body Politics*, on 14 October.

Please Join as an FLC Member!

If you support the work we are doing and have not already joined or renewed, the link to do so is here. If you're unsure about your membership status, check by emailing membership@feministlegal.org



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