25 July 2020

Attention: Kirsten Woodward

Manager Social Programs and Services

City Life

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

I am writing to you as a concerned woman living in Australia in relation to your position as landlord of the Feminist Legal Clinic.

As a member of the Feminist Legal Clinic Inc. I support the work of the Feminist Legal Clinic (FLC) and the important work they do advancing the human rights of women and girls.

The FLC provides support to feminist groups, organisations and services and the women who access them. It is a women’s rights advocacy service. Currently the definition of “woman” is under threat, not just in this country but indeed around the world, as gender ideology pushes its way into organisations, institutions, governments and beyond.

Gender identity theory is a controversial, contested ideology which is, and should be, the subject of much debate in different parts of the world due to the profound impact on the rights of others to maintain sex-based boundaries, protections and rights. Freedom of speech means that women and others concerned about this radical ideology should be allowed to discuss the impacts and ramifications predominantly for the lives of women and girls.

Women should be free to gather, associate and organise to discuss how different things affect our lives and rights and the FLC should be free to support women exclusive of male bodied persons.

Your demands on the FLC to cut their affiliation with the Women’s Sex Based Rights Movement and remove certain materials and events published on their website is an example of women’s rights being ignored and women’s voices and concerns being silenced.

Despite what you personally believe there have been many examples of women being attacked, doxxed, no-platformed and threatened simply for asserting that biological sex is real and immutable and that women is a significant, meaningful classification. The Sydney City Council’s attempt to silence the FLC and threatening to terminate their tenancy in Glebe is an example of this very same behaviour and strategy.

I, along with the FLC, do not believe championing women's sex-based rights or questioning the harmful effects of medical treatments on children is discriminatory. Many transgender people share these same concerns.

It is disappointing and despicable to me that a government authority such as the City of Sydney Council, representative of the people of Sydney, can conduct themselves in such an authoritarian manner while adopting this controversial and contested ideological position.

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

Yours sincerely,