

29 July 2020

Kirsten Woodward  
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Dear Ms Woodward,

I refer to your letter to Anna Kerr, Principal Solicitor of Feminist Legal Clinic, dated 24<sup>th</sup> July 2020 - Ref: 2020/322268, File No: S116516.004.

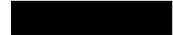
I am a financial member of the Feminist Legal Clinic and, as such, wish to address the Sydney City Council's stated intention to terminate the tenancy of the Clinic's office in Glebe unless they remove from their website certain material that the Sydney City Council has deemed to contain negative attitudes towards people who identify as transgender.

It is astounding to me that a clinic such as this, established for the purpose of giving voice to women and girls, to promote and improve their individual and collective access to quality legal support and services, is being targeted because of their alignment with the growing women's sex-based rights movement.

The Feminist Legal Clinic's championing of biological women's rights cannot be viewed, in any sense, to be discriminatory. Neither can their questioning of the harmful effects of medical treatments, including sterilization, on children, be seen as being discriminatory. Globally and nationally, they are in very good and esteemed company in questioning these practices, including by many who identify as transgender. The practice of children being put on puberty blockers, and even undergoing surgery to remove healthy body parts, is madness. I am convinced that most Australians, if they were made aware, would share the Clinic's belief 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.

The Clinic must be allowed to continue their important work without being penalised by the Sydney City Council for stating their beliefs and raising important issues publicly. It is appalling that the Clinic staff have had to spend valuable time defending their right to freedom of speech in this way. Please reconsider and desist from your intended termination of their tenancy.

Yours faithfully,

Wendy Francis  
  
  


cc: City of Sydney City Councilors