



## **Feminist Legal Clinic Inc.**

PO Box 273, Summer Hill NSW 2130

Mobile: 0402 467 476

[www.feministlegal.org](http://www.feministlegal.org)

ABN: 17 360 484 300

The Hon. Mark Speakman SC, MP  
Attorney-General  
Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence  
52 Martin Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Friday 29 October 2021

Dear Attorney-General

### **Re: Impact of trans activism on women's rights**

I write to express our concern about the endorsement of extreme trans activism by the Department of Communities and Justice and the NSW Government generally and the harmful impact this is having on our community.

We are being contacted by many women who have had their employment threatened or have been disciplined by professional bodies, censored or otherwise silenced after they have questioned the conflation of biological sex with socially constructed notions of gender identity. I have also been consulted by women's groups and organisations (for example, McIver's Ladies Pool) which are under threat as a result of aggressive trans activist demands that no women's spaces, services or opportunities should exclude males who claim to be women, regardless of whether they have had any sexual reassignment surgery.

Recently Feminist Legal Clinic Inc. received correspondence from Legal Aid NSW threatening to remove us from Legal Aid panels and to reassign our casework on these grounds. This is despite no individual having complained or made any claim of discrimination against our service and many hundreds of women having written personally in support of our service during our recent dispute with the City of Sydney Council over this same issue. Following correspondence from us, Legal Aid has now reconsidered its position. However, these ongoing government sanctioned ideological attacks on women and their services are oppressive in the extreme and have undermined all freedom of speech on this subject.

We are also concerned that the affirmation model of treatment for gender dysphoria, which is promoted by trans activist organisations such as the Gender Centre and ACON, is being actively endorsed and funded by the NSW Government, despite mounting evidence that it is causing substantial harm to many children and other vulnerable people. The affirmation model conflates the concepts of biological sex and socially constructed notions of gender identity and promulgates the false idea that it is possible to change sex. Our schools, universities, hospitals and health services are all now actively complicit in encouraging harmful practices, including the use of puberty blockers, chest-binding, testicle-tucking, cross-sex hormones and surgeries. Indeed, the Department of Communities and Justice is distributing ACON's training materials to its staff, including staff of Legal Aid NSW, and thereby actively endorsing and promoting this ideology.

In the wake of rising numbers of “detransitioners”, various international developments herald a reversal in the affirmation approach. We appreciate that due to extensive censorship and the skewed media reporting taking place some members of government, and the public generally, may be unaware of recent international developments and research indicating the harmful impact of unbridled trans ideology on the human rights of women and children. We attach a copy of a joint letter we have recently sent to a group of doctors detailing some of these developments and which we have also copied to the NSW Minister for Health. In allowing this narrative to go unchecked, we believe our public institutions are breaching their duty of care to the many young people who will end up maimed and sterilised.

As Australian country contact for the international Women's Human Rights Campaign (WHRC), please let me know if there is any way Feminist Legal Clinic Inc. can support you with raising awareness of the very real harm caused by this ill-conceived ideology and urgently reversing the harmful narrative currently being funded and disseminated by the NSW Government.

I look forward to your urgent response and intervention in these matters.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Kerr', with a stylized, cursive flourish at the end.

Anna Kerr

Principal Solicitor