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5 August 2010

The Hon Robert McClelland, MP
Attorney-General
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Copy to: The Hon Julia Gillard MP
 The Hon Lindsay Tanner MP
 Senator the Hon George Brandis
 The Hon Tony Abbott MP
 Senator the Hon Bob Brown
 Senator the Hon Sarah Hanson-Young

Dear Attorney-General

Consolidation of Federal Anti-Discrimination Laws

We refer to your commitment to 'harmonise and consolidate Commonwealth anti-discrimination laws to remove unnecessary regulatory overlap, address inconsistencies across laws and make the system more user-friendly' (the Consolidation Project).

The Consolidation Project provides a unique opportunity to strengthen and modernise our anti-discrimination regime and improve our laws to ensure that they promote equality, provide comprehensive protection against discrimination and establish reporting and measurement frameworks. Strengthened equality laws would have a normative and educative impact and contribute to social cohesion, higher productivity and participation, and improved outcomes in areas including education and health.

Accordingly, the undersigned individuals and organisations call on the Government to commit to a Consolidation Project that addresses issues beyond regulatory inconsistencies and overlap and aims to modernise and strengthen Australia's anti-discrimination regime and promote equality and fairness for all.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Ball

Director – Policy and Campaigns

For and on behalf of:

Signatory

Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement Inc
Aboriginal Legal Service of WA
ACTU
Amnesty International Australia
Australian Bahá'í Community
Australian Federation of Disability Organisations
Australian Lawyers for Human Rights Inc.
Australian Reproductive Health Alliance
Australian Womensport and Recreation Association
Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation
Castan Centre for Human Rights Law
Council of Social Service of NSW (NCOSS)
Council to Homeless Persons
Disability Discrimination Legal Service
Dr Dominique Allen, Australian Catholic University
Elizabeth A Evatt AC, former member of the UN Human Rights Committee and Australian Federal Court Judge
Equality Rights Alliance
Federation of Community Legal Centres (Vic) Inc
Fiona McLeod, SC, Victorian Bar
Geraldton Resource Centre
GetUp! Action for Australia

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Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service	Frank E. Guivarra
Women's Legal Service NSW	Janet Loughman
Women's International League for Peace & Freedom - Australian Section	Ruth Russell
Women's Legal Service Victoria	Zione Walker-Nthenda
YWCA	Dr Caroline Lambert