



## **HAWKESBURY NEPEAN COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE INC.**

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Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committee on  
Legal and Constitutional Affairs  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee,

**Submission to the Senate Inquiry into the effectiveness of the Commonwealth Sex Discrimination Act 1984 in eliminating discrimination and promoting gender equality.**

Hawkesbury Nepean Community Legal Centre, located in Windsor NSW, provides free legal information and advice to people living in the Hawkesbury, Nepean and Hills areas of NSW and is one of 39 community legal centres in NSW.

Community legal centres work for the public interest, particularly for disadvantaged and marginalised people and communities and we provide services to a range of people who face considerable disadvantage and often face substantial barriers in accessing legal systems. We promote human rights, social justice and a better environment by advocating for access to justice and equitable laws and legal systems and through the provision of legal services including strategic casework, community legal education and law reform campaigns.

Hawkesbury Nepean Community Legal Centre strongly supports the removal of all discrimination from Australian laws and as such welcomed the inquiry into the Commonwealth Sex Discrimination Act 1984.

Hawkesbury Nepean Community Legal Centre receives many calls from clients each year regarding discrimination. The vast majority of those calls are from women seeking advice with respect to discrimination in relation to their pregnancy and / or maternity leave, discrimination in relation to their sex (usually with respect to employment opportunities and promotion within the workplace) and sexual harassment. The stories told by our clients, particularly by women, demonstrate that discrimination remains rife throughout Australian society and it is more often than not, women who bear the brunt of discriminatory attitudes and actions.

Unfortunately our resources have not enabled us to prepare a submission to this inquiry, however we note that the National Association of Community Legal Centres, the Combined Community Legal Centres Group of New South Wales and Kingsford Legal Centre have jointly provided a comprehensive submission to this inquiry. Hawkesbury Nepean Community Legal Centre is a member of the Combined Community Legal Centres Group of New South Wales. Accordingly, we are writing to formally endorse that submission and the recommendations contained therein and express our hope that the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee will commend the adoption of the recommendations put forward in that submission to the Commonwealth Government.

Yours sincerely,

**Hawkesbury Nepean Community Legal Centre**



Philippa Davis

Solicitor