

National Human Rights Consultation Submission

AGWW-7T22XX

Organisation: University of Melbourne

Submission Text:

I wish to support and endorse the submission by ALSO and VGLRL (attached). I believe that Australia's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex citizens require protection under specific federal human rights legislation. My field is healthcare and healthcare research. As a practicing GP, I see many LGBTI people whose health is adversely affected as a result of discrimination in our community. Such discrimination can be within our public institutions and legislation would assist in creating change to reduce such discrimination. An example is a lesbian woman who was repeatedly vilified by a work colleague leading to depression and loss of her job. The colleague was not called to account and potentially will repeat the offence with other LGBTI employees.

As a researcher, I also know the positive impact that legislative protection of human rights can have on groups of LGBTI people. For example, where the non-birth parent in gay or lesbian families is recognised in law as the parent, the society in which that family lives gradually becomes more accepting.

Thank you for the chance to make a submission.