



Friday, 31 May 2013

MEDIA RELEASE

Community Legal Centres say protections for sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status are a step in the right direction.

The National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC) and Kingsford Legal Centre (KLC) welcome the passing of the Sex Discrimination Amendment (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Intersex Status) Bill through the House of Representatives yesterday. The reforms will protect gender identity, sexual orientation and intersex status as grounds where discrimination is prohibited.

NACLC and KLC commend the Government's decision to look at inserting a qualification on the exemption for religious organisations for the provision of Commonwealth-funded aged care services, to ensure that older couples and individuals will no longer need to worry about experiencing discrimination in aged care services.

NACLC and KLC also welcome the Attorney-General's Department's announcement that work will continue on the draft Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill. The Sex Discrimination Act reforms are important and very welcome, however NACLC and KLC believe the draft Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill would have made the laws simpler and fairer for Australians.

"While the protections for sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status are a step in the right direction, consolidation of anti-discrimination laws would significantly improve fairness and access to justice for all Australians. The consolidation project was an international commitment made by Australia under the United Nations Universal Periodic Review." said Michael Smith, NACLC's National Convenor.

Anna Cody, Director of Kingsford Legal Centre, said "These are significant changes, improving our discrimination law. We are very keen to see the whole consolidation of discrimination laws continue. The consolidation changes will make the process fairer for our community including our client groups, disadvantaged people."

- Ends -

For further information or to arrange an interview contact:

Anna Cody – Director, KLC Ph: 02 9385 9566 or 0431 636 594

Michael Smith – Convenor, NACLC Ph: 03 9285 4822 or 0421 437 883