



Human Rights Law Resource Centre Ltd  
Level 17, 461 Bourke Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000  
[www.hrlrc.org.au](http://www.hrlrc.org.au)  
ABN: 31 117 719 267

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

**Contact**

Neil E Gillespie  
Shanna Satya  
Amy Schwebel  
Andrew Beswick  
Tessa Scrine  
Lesley Hall  
Natasha Case  
Rose McConnell  
Heather Reid  
Jacqueline Phillips  
Sarah Joseph  
Samantha Edmonds  
Michelle Burrell  
Julie Phillips  
  
Kathy Richards  
Dr Chris Atmore  
  
Chris Gabelish  
Aaron Hulse

Institute of Legal Studies, Australian Catholic University	Spencer Zifcak
Kingsford Legal Centre	Anna Cody
Liberty Victoria	Michael Pearce SC
National Association of Community Legal Centres	Lou Edwards
National Committee on Human Rights Education	Dr Sev Ozdowski OAM
National Foundation for Australian Women	Kate Bosser
Network of Immigrant and Refugee Women of Australia Inc	Vivi Germanos-Koutsounadis OAM
NSW Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby	Senthorun Raj
Phil Grano OAM, Office of the Public Advocate	
Professor Dianne Otto, Melbourne University	
Public Interest Law Clearing House	Simone Cusack
Simeon Beckett, NSW Bar	
Sussex Street Community Law Service Inc	Nicole Joseph
Top End Women's Legal Service	Teena Balgi
Victoria Legal Aid	Kristen Hilton
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