

Organisational Anti-Discrimination Statement

Building on feminist movements that have challenged conventional gender distinctions for generations, we recognise that patriarchal and colonial gender norms affect everyone. Our experiences of gender do not exist in isolation, each and every one of us has unique aspects to our lives.

We are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, from migrant and refugee backgrounds, LGBTIQ+ women and people, disabled women and women with chronic illnesses, young women, ageing women, women living in regional, rural and remote areas. We are women with experiences of poverty, abuse, violence, exploitation, incarceration, sex work and political persecution.

All people have the right to health. We all have the right to gender affirming care in all aspects of our health and wellbeing. Addressing gender discrimination in all its forms is an important preventive health measure to ensure health equity. Our vision of health equity for all women is subsequently inclusive of all women, including cis and trans women.¹

Anti-discrimination practice is a critical component of health equity. Anti-discrimination practice is any action that enables self-determination and bodily autonomy in health. It includes access to universal healthcare services, accurate health information in our own languages and formats, and ensuring that broader health research and knowledge sharing is accurate and accessible.

The Right to Health is access to healthcare for all. That healthcare must be free from any discrimination, regardless of gender identity.^{2 3}

Australia has obligations under international law to recognise the rights of everyone to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.⁴

As a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Australia has committed to:

- condemn discrimination against women in all its forms, [and] agree to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating discrimination against women (Article 2)
- take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men (Article 3).⁵

All women, including trans women, non-binary and other gender diverse people have a right to gender affirming care in all aspects of our health and wellbeing.



About us

Australian Women's Health Alliance provides a national voice on women's health. We highlight how gender shapes experiences of health and health care, recognising that women's health is determined by social, cultural, environmental, and political factors.

Contact us

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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters on which we live and work. We pay our respect to Elders past and present. Sovereignty has never been ceded.

¹ Under the Sex Discrimination Act 1984: Gender identity discrimination happens when a person is treated less favourably than another person in a similar situation because of that person's gender-related identity, appearance, mannerisms or other gender-related characteristics of the person. It does not matter what sex a person was assigned at birth or whether the person has undergone any medical intervention. Human Rights Commission, [Sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status discrimination](#), Australian Human Rights Commission, 2014, accessed 17 July 2023.

² Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, [General Comment No. 22 \(2016\) on the Right to sexual and reproductive health](#), ESCR-Net, 2016, accessed 17 July 2023.

³ Australian Human Rights Commission, [Right to health](#), humanrights.gov.au, accessed 17 July 2023.

⁴ Australian Human Rights Commission, [Right to health](#), humanrights.gov.au. Australia is a party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). By ratifying a treaty, a country voluntarily accepts legal obligations under international law. [Reporting under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#), Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 2016, accessed 17 July 2023.

⁵ United Nations Office of the High Commissioner, [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women New York, 18 December 1979](#), United Nations Office of the High Commissioner, 1979, accessed 18 July 2023.