



South Australian Rainbow Advocacy Alliance
64C Woodville Rd
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20 November 2024

By email

Integrity Unit
The University of Adelaide
North Terrace Campus
THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE
SA 5005
Email: integrityunit@adelaide.edu.au

RE: ANTI-TRANS HATE AT UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

To the Integrity Unit at The University of Adelaide,

I write on behalf of SA Rainbow Advocacy Alliance, the peak body representing LGBTIQ+ South Australians and the sector that supports us. Personally, I am also an alumni of The University of Adelaide (LLB (Hons), BIntl, 2017).

Since March 2024 we have received an increased number of requests for support from LGBTIQ+ people who have experienced discrimination at The University of Adelaide in relation to activities of a group by the name of Feminist Women's Association Adelaide (FWAA) that provide a women-only space for social catch-ups, feminist discussions and actions.

Students, staff and alumni have reached out to us concerned that the FWAA is promoting anti-trans hate speech and disseminating disinformation about trans and gender diverse people and the medical care they access.

One transgender woman contacted us as she requested to join and received a response from FWAA that described her as a "feminine man" and suggesting that transgender people transition based on "a feeling in your head" (attached).

More recently The University of Adelaide student magazine On Dit published the article "Why You Actually Agree with TERFs" (edition 92.4) by the FWAA founder. We have received multiple complaints that the article includes harmful sentiment expressed about trans women and non-binary people and incites a public debate on the validity of trans and gender diverse people more broadly. This form of reporting is inconsistent with standards set by the Media,



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Entertainment & Arts Alliance (MEAA) who have published guidance on reporting about LGBTIQ+ issues.¹

We seek your support to mitigate the impact of anti-trans hate on the wellbeing of your trans and gender diverse students and staff. Trans and gender diverse South Australians experience disproportionately poorer mental health and suicidal ideation than that of the general population, related to increased experiences of discrimination and stigma.² We recommend you review the *Fuelling Hate Report* that investigates anti-trans hate in Australia and its impacts.³

We have encouraged our members to contact your unit as the reported behaviour appears to breach your Student Code of Conduct and Equal Opportunity Policy.

We are also concerned that the FWAA's decision to exclude transgender women may constitute a breach of the *Sex Discrimination Act 1984* (Cth) and *Equal Opportunity Act 1984* (SA), noting the recent Federal Court decision that Giggle for Girls had indirectly discriminated against a transgender woman by excluding her from an app designed as a women-only safe space.⁴

We understand that The University of Adelaide is a member of ACON's Pride in Diversity program, supporting LGBTQ workplace inclusion and reducing stigma in the workplace. We strongly encourage you to seek consultation services from your Pride in Diversity account manager who will be able to provide advice on how to appropriately and safely respond to this matter.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our feedback on this matter. We would welcome the opportunity to support The University of Adelaide to manage this situation effectively in a manner that promotes the health, safety and wellbeing of your trans and gender diverse students, staff and alumni.

¹ Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance (MEAA) (2021). *Factsheet: Reporting on LGBTIQ+ issues and people*. Available at <https://www.meaa.org/download/media-entertainment-arts-alliance-factsheet-reporting-on-lgbtqia-issues-and-people/>

² Hinton, J. D. X, Lim, G., Amos, N., Anderson, J., & Bourne, A. (2024). *LGBTQ+ mental health and suicidality: South Australia Briefing Paper*. Melbourne, Australia: Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University. Available at <https://www.latrobe.edu.au/arcs/shs/work/lgbtqa-mental-health-and-suicidality>.

³ Trans Justice Project and Victorian Pride Lobby (2023) *Fuelling Hate: Abuse, Harassment, Vilification and Violence Against Trans People In Australia*. Available at <https://transjustice.org.au/fuelling-hate/>.

⁴ *Tickle v Giggle for Girls Pty Ltd (No 2)* [2024] FCA 960.



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If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Varo, Chief Executive Officer at varo@saraa.org.au.

We will also make this letter publicly available on our website to ensure our members are aware of our position.

Kind regards,

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