

The Northern Territory Women's Legal Service submission on the Adoption of Children Legislation Amendment (Equality) Bill 2017



Katherine Womens Information & Legal Service Inc.

A community legal service initiative of Wurlu Wurlinjang Aboriginal Corporation and Katherine Regional Aboriginal Legal Aid Service funded by the Commonwealth Attorney General's department.



ABN 42 830 944 178

TOP END WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICE INC.

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19 January 2018

Committee Secretary
Department of the Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 3721
DARWIN NT 0801

By email to: Julia.Knight@nt.gov.au

Dear Ms. Knight,

Review of Adoption of Children Legislation Amendment (Equality) Bill 2017 – TEWLS submission

Thank you for inviting submissions on the Adoption of Children Legislation Amendment (Equality) Bill 2017 ("the Bill"). The Top End Women's Legal Service Inc. ("TEWLS") welcomes the opportunity to make submissions on the Bill.

About WLSNT

WLSNT is constituted by 3 community legal centres focused on the advancement of women's rights and funded by the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department and Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. We provide legal advice, casework, referrals, community legal education and advocacy to women in the Northern Territory. Each service works in areas of civil law, including domestic and family violence, family law, compensation for victims of crime, sexual assault, housing, and consumer credit debts.

Our submission


As an advocate for the advancement of women's rights we welcome the adoption of gender neutral terms and the opportunity for same sex couples to apply to adopt a child. In light of the recent changes to the Marriage Act and current Commonwealth Anti-Discrimination Legislation, we support the current movement within the Territory toward equality for same sex couples. TEWLS endorses the changes set out in the Bill and we recommend the Assembly pass the Bill with no changes.

Conclusion

We appreciate the opportunity to make this submission, and support the ongoing review of legislation to allow for gender neutral terms and plain English.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the writer on (08) 8982 3000.

Yours faithfully,
TOP END WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICE INC.



Vanessa Lethlean
Managing Solicitor