The Hon. Chris Minns, MP

GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Premier,

We write to you as a coalition of lawyers working on the front-line of legal assistance across metropolitan, rural, regional and remote NSW.

Our society and laws should be just, fair and inclusive. And yet every day across our state we are hearing from people who experience different treatment and discrimination because they are LGBTIQA+.

The NSW Equality Legislation Amendment (LGBTIQA+) Bill 2023 is an important step forward in addressing key areas of law to ensure equality and dignity for all our state’s residents.

Trans and gender diverse people are directly impacted by laws that require invasive, expensive and often unnecessary surgeries to update their gender on birth certificates and other identity documents.

We have clients who are waiting, and desperately hoping, for the law to change as it already has in almost all other states and territories in Australia.

In 2025 we will mark 30 years of sex work being decriminalised in our state and yet banks, real estate agents and insurance providers can outright refuse to serve a sex worker on the basis of their occupation.

Frustratingly, as lawyers, we are unable to advise our clients of any recourse or remedies under the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977.*

We ask you to progress these reforms and all others in the Equality Bill, including the proposed amendments to the *Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007,* which would add provisions that protect LGBTIQA+ from ‘outing’ in circumstances of potential violence.

Everyone in NSW should live with respect, wellbeing and dignity, and our laws must be fair and just, giving everyone the chance to thrive and participate in society.

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