

To whom it may concern,

We are writing to you as concerned individuals and community leaders to express our strong opposition to the proposed application for exemption from the Sex Discrimination Act by Lesbian Action Group. We are writing to you as the radio and podcast hosts of Triple Bi Pass – a radio show and podcast that centers the voices and experiences of bisexual, pansexual, and multi-gender-attracted (MGA) community members. On Triple Bi Pass, we discuss people’s experiences within the community, the latest research and social issues impacting people who are bisexual, pansexual or MGA. The Triple Bi Pass team is made up of five bisexual people, three of whom are transgender. Bisexual and transgender communities share solidarity in being communities within the LGBTQIA+ community who are excluded and whose experiences are stigmatised due to heteronormative and cisnormative assumptions and bias. Triple Bi Pass is the only radio show and podcast in Australia to speak to the experiences of bisexual, pansexual and MGA people, with over 5 years of service to Australia’s LGBTQIA+ community through JOY Media (formerly JOY 94.9) and our team are an established authority in discussions on bisexual and transgender rights.

Triple Bi Pass would like to raise concerns regarding the recent application for a 5 year exemption from the Sex Discrimination Act (the Act) made by the Lesbian Action Group (LAG), with the support of the LGB Alliance Australia (LGBAA). If successful, this exemption would embolden transphobes and biphobes and allow harmful conduct that undermines the objects of the Act. Triple Bi Pass strongly recommends that this application be rejected by the Commission.

Triple Bi Pass posits that LAG and LGBAA are using ‘lesbian rights’ as a smokescreen for sexism, queerphobia and transphobia, and biphobia. Their claims of lesbian erasure by the trans community are transphobic dog whistles. The positioning of trans women as uniquely threatening to cis women lesbians is lesbophobic and obscures the reality that ‘It is disproportionately cis people (both women and men) who are dangerous to, and perpetrators of violence against, trans women, not the other way around’ ([Pearce, Erikainen et al, 2020](#)).

In 2021, LGBAA made an application to the Tasmanian Anti-Discrimination Commissioner for an exemption to hold single-sex events. Commissioner Bolt rejected the application, [stating that](#) an exemption ‘would open up the possibility for LGB Alliance to seek to confirm a person’s biological sex. I do not see how this can be done without intrusive questioning and completely undermining a person’s right to privacy.’ Bolt added that doing so would be ‘offensive, humiliating, intimidating, insulting and ridiculing’ and amount to ‘sexual harassment’.

[REDACTED]

The applicants and their supporters are not representative of the overwhelming majority of lesbians, who gather regularly and openly in Victoria at LGBTQIA+ inclusive venues such as “lezbo queer bar” [Flippy’s](#) and “Melbourne’s premier lesbian, trans, non-binary, neurodivergent bar”, [Beans Bar](#). The 2023 [Positive Futures](#) report from Just Like Us found that:

‘Lesbians are the most likely of the whole LGBTQ+ community to be supportive of trans people. Lesbians are the most likely to say they know a trans person (92%), and also the most likely to say they are “supportive” or “very supportive” of trans people (96%).’

- [Amy Ashenden, ‘Lesbians being anti-trans is a lesbophobic trope’, Gay Times, March 2023](#)

Moreover, this application demonstrates a continuation of the prejudiced treatment of bisexual, pansexual and multi-gender-attracted women from biphobic and transphobic lesbians. Bisexual women have long been seen as a threat by some lesbian groups because of their supposed traitorous relationships with men – a fear which is both unfounded and irrational ([Stone, 1996](#)). This biphobia, combined with biphobia and queerphobia from heterosexuals, creates a potent double discrimination which leaves bisexual individuals excluded and oppressed from multiple communities ([Mereish, Katz-Wise, Woulfe, 2017](#)). The unique discrimination that bisexuals and multi-gender-attracted people face leaves us less likely to be out ([Melville, Stonborough, Gooch, 2020](#)), less likely to feel accepted in our communities, workplaces and families, and more likely to experience serious mental and physical health problems including suicidal ideation than monosexual gays and lesbians ([Australian Research Centre for Sex, Health and Society, 2020](#))

It is imperative that we defend bisexual inclusion in queer spaces. Any attempt to exclude bisexuals by monosexual lesbians and gays is built on misplaced fear and/or hate and must not be tolerated.

This exemption application has nothing to do with lesbian rights and everything to do with denying the existence and rights of trans people and bisexual, pansexual and MGA people. If successful, the exemption would fan the flames of the [increasingly violent anti-trans panic](#) and create a precedent for further incursions on LGBTQIA+ rights.

Triple Bi Pass urges the Commissioner to reject the exemption application made by LAG and LGBA as it would undermine the rights of LGBTQIA+ people and the objects of the Sex Discrimination Act.

We look forward to your support in this matter and thank you in advance for your consideration of bisexual community views.

Regards,


Triple Bi Pass

