

Restore women's rights in the Sex Discrimination Act

The issue

1

The Sex Discrimination Act (1984) was **created to protect women** from discrimination and **ensure our safety, dignity, and equality**; however, **amendments** in 2013 **removed the biological definitions of 'woman' and 'man'** and introduced 'gender identity.'

These changes have **eroded the legal clarity of protections** for women and undermined our ability to access **female-only spaces, services, and opportunities**.

The implications

2

- This has **blurred the distinction between sex and gender** in law, leading to **confusion** and **undermining protections** for women and girls.
- States and territories have since introduced **sex self-identification laws, allowing men to access to female-only spaces by self-identifying as women**.

Impacts on women's rights

3

- **Reduced legal clarity** regarding women's sex-based protections.
- Challenges to women's access to **female-only spaces**, including **crisis centres, shelters, hospital wards, and changing facilities**.
- Legal disputes over **women's sports, grants, awards, and services** specifically designed for women.
- Cases where raising concerns about these issues has resulted in **legal challenges**.

Why this matters to women voters

4

Women voters care deeply about protecting our rights to **safety, privacy, and dignity**. Female-only spaces are essential for **addressing systemic inequalities** we face in a male-dominated society. These protections are not just legal—they are **vital for achieving meaningful equality**.

What we need from you as a candidate

5

1. **Commit to restoring protections:** Reinstate clear legal definitions of "woman" and "man" in the Sex Discrimination Act.
2. **Defend female-only spaces:** Ensure that organisations understand it is lawful to provide female-only spaces under the Act.
3. **Prioritise women's safety:** Advocate for policies that protect women's access to female-only services and opportunities.

Women are watching

This is a vote-changing issue for us. Women voters want leaders who will stand up for our protections and ensure that the law works for us, not against us.



A F F I L I A T I O N O F
A U S T R A L I A N W O M E N ' S
A C T I O N A L L I A N C E S

womensactionall.org
women@womensactionall.org