

Lesbian Action Group's additional information is as follows:

- Further details regarding the reasons why the exemption is reasonable and necessary, for example why is it reasonable and necessary to exclude the relevant groups mentioned in the application and restrict the event to female born lesbians?

1 - I think it's reasonable to say that all members of oppressed, marginalised and discriminated against groups in Australia have urgent and necessary reasons why from time to time they need to meet with each other to discuss matters of importance for their own well-being and peace of mind without interference from those people in the dominant patriarchal culture who don't always have the best interests of the minority group at heart.

In the case of Lesbians Born Female, there's no doubt that we have been and still are discriminated against as far as employment, mothering, health, accommodation, nursing homes, sexuality and other issues, like our opinions about ourselves in relation to others, are concerned.

For Lesbians Born Female, that would include not wanting nor being able to discuss personal health-related issues in front of people who are not lesbians born female, for example. Or only wanting to share personal stories about domestic violence between lesbians born female or being too frightened to go into a hospital or nursing home because our request for a female born medical person won't be met or because we need lesbian born female support after being raped.

One of the most important aspects of getting together with like-minded and like-bodied lesbians born female is to celebrate our achievements, to rejoice in our culture which is like nothing else, to relish in the fact that we can meet freely and without being abused for wanting to do so and to participate in and listen to Lesbian Concerts, play and sing our Lesbian music, organise and

attend workshops on a plethora of pertinent topics, talk with each other, exchange views, opinions, personal stories, laugh together and Dance.

- Further details regarding why the exemption is being requested for 5 years when only one event is specified, please provide specific details about what circumstances or activities would be covered by the 5 year period,

2 - We applied for the five year Temporary Exemption because once the Lesbians Born Female community are given an Exemption to hold our own events we won't want to stop at one. For three decades, 1969 - 2003, we held regular meetings and were members of Consciousness Raising and radical activist groups, organised and attend ten-day long Lesbian Festival, Conferences and Celebrations, spoken at Lesbian Rallies and went on Lesbian and International Women's Day Marches, there really is no end to the personal fun and political actions we are capable of doing once we put our minds to it.

And equally importantly, in this repressive and conservative political climate over the past two decades, 2003 - 2023, where we are having to ask permission to not only meet but to advertise whatever it is we want to do in order to reach out to younger lesbians, the more events we can organise and encourage other lesbians born female to do the same, the better. We used to be able to go out every night of the week to one lesbian event or other. Nowadays, we're lucky to meet for the occasional lunch and even then we have to be circumspect about it.

- Confirmation regarding what type of entity the Lesbian Action Group is, i.e. is it incorporated, voluntary organisation?

3 - The recently formed Lesbian Action Group is a not-for-profit, lesbians born female only community based group of volunteers with the aim of gaining an Exception so that we can publicly promote organise events for lesbians born female without fear of being hauled before VCAT, as we have in the past, and told our exclusive lesbian born female events are illegal and having to cancel them. While we have the support of an incorporated lesbian group if it becomes necessary for LAG to be Incorporated we would certainly consider the option to Incorporate if and when necessary.

- Copy of the revocation decision relating to the VCAT 2003 application for exemption (referred to in the application) where available

4 - We can't find a copy of the revocation of the 2003 Application for Exemption at this time but the hearing was held at VCAT on 30 September 2003 after the Lesbian Festival 2004 organising collective received a notice informing us that the Sydney-based transgender organisation, The Australian Woman Network (sic), had lodged an application with VCAT for revocation of the exemption. And because the original complainant hadn't been informed, the exemption was suddenly and automatically revoked by the magistrate to come into effect on 30 December 2003.

Lesbian Action Group

