



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Protecting Domestic Violence as a Protected Attribute

“We have a once-in-a-decade opportunity to make a real difference to women who are currently experiencing, or have experienced, domestic and family violence by including the status of being a survivor/victim of domestic violence as a protected attribute in the consolidated Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination (HRAD) Bill 2012. Not taking this opportunity to provide a much-needed protection and support to women is an absolute travesty.” – Julie Oberin, Chair of AWAVA

The Commonwealth have been showing great leadership with the recent announcement of the extension of the National Employment Standard to provide the right to request flexible work arrangements for workers experiencing domestic violence. To really assist victims of domestic violence to increasingly participate in the workforce and broader community there needs to be express legislative protections.

AWAVA are very supportive of the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012 and are extremely disappointed that the recommendation to include the status of being a survivor/victim of domestic violence as a protected attribute stands and falls with the Bill

“How do we protect Australia’s most vulnerable women if there is no specific legislative protection from the discrimination we know they still face in the workplace and when seeking safe, secure and long-term accommodation? If we can include protections in the Fair Work Act and workplace indicators, why not in our discrimination laws? We know that this is absolutely needed for the safety and security of women and their children to find their way out, and stay out of abusive relationships.”

20 March 2013

Background

Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA)

AWAVA is the Commonwealth-funded National Women’s Alliance focused on addressing all forms of violence against women and girls.

For further information:

Table with 3 columns: Organisation, Contact Point, Telephone number. Rows include Julie Oberin (Chair) and Amy Blain (Program Manager).

