

**Royal Commission
into Family Violence**

JOINT WITNESS STATEMENT OF ANNA BROWN AND SEAN MULCAHY

I, Anna Brown and I, Sean Mulcahy of the Victorian Gay & Lesbian Rights Lobby in the State of Victoria, say as follows:

1. We are authorised by the Victorian Gay & Lesbian Rights Lobby to make this statement on its behalf.
2. We make this statement on the basis of our own knowledge, save where otherwise stated. Where we make statements based on information provided by others, we believe such information to be true.

Current roles

3. We are the Co-Convenors of the Victorian Gay & Lesbian Rights Lobby (**Association**), a community based advocacy group established in Victoria that works to achieve equality, human rights and social justice for lesbians, gay men queer people, bisexual people and same sex attracted people. We work in coalition with transgender, intersex and bisexual groups to advance the human rights of all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (**LGBTIQ**) people.
4. As Co-Convenors, we form part of the Association's committee of management which is responsible for the affairs of the Association.

Background and qualifications - Anna Brown

5. I graduated from Monash University in 2004 with a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) and Bachelor of Laws (Hons) degree.
6. I have been the Association's Co-Convenor since February 2012.
7. I am also the Chair of the Human Rights Committee of the Law Institute of Victoria, on the board of the National LGBTI Health Alliance and ILGA Oceania

and the current Director of Advocacy and Strategic Litigation at the Human Rights Law Centre (**Centre**).

8. In my role at the Centre, I have led much of its work on LGBTI rights, police accountability, protester rights, and equality law reform. I have also been involved in major law reform projects including securing federal LGBTI discrimination protections and ongoing work to expunge historical convictions for gay sex offences in various states in Australia. I have been in this role since 2011.
9. Prior to this, I have held various senior legal roles at the Centre, the Victorian Government Solicitors Office and law firm Allens. I have also worked as an adviser to the former Deputy Premier and Attorney-General, Rob Hulls, MP.

Background and qualifications – Sean Mulcahy

10. I have a Bachelor of Performing Arts (Hons) and Bachelor of Laws (Hons) from Monash University.
11. I currently work as a Research and Administrative Assistant in the Sir Zelman Cowen Centre at Victoria University.
12. I have previously worked for federal and state governments as well as in the industrial sector, and have undertaken research internships with the Victorian Ombudsman, Australian Law Reform Commission and Native Title Services Victoria.
13. I was also previously on the advisory board of It Gets Better Australia, a community based organisation focussed on improving outcomes for diverse sexualities and gendered youths, particularly during the coming out stage. I currently sit on the Victorian Local Government Association's Rainbow Working Group, providing support to local governments on LGBTIQ diversity and inclusion.

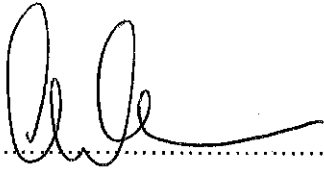
The Association

14. The Association is the peak community organisation that is representative of gay and lesbian rights in Victoria. It works with policy-makers, service providers, educational and other sectors, primarily in promoting gay and lesbian issues, as well as bisexual, transgender and intersex issues more broadly.

15. Our work includes making submissions to government, responding to issues in the media and working with decision makers to try and get better outcomes for LGBTIQ communities.

Submission

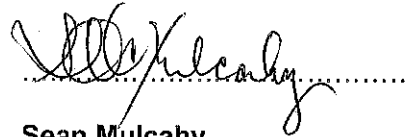
16. On 31 May 2015 the Association made a submission to the Royal Commission into Family Violence. We refer to and adopt that submission. Attached to this statement and marked '**ABSM 1**' is a copy of the Association's submission to the Royal Commission into Family Violence.



Anna Brown

Dated: ~~28~~ July 2015

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Sean Mulcahy

Dated: ~~28~~ July 2015