

28 June 2018

**To Whom it May Concern**

**Re: the NSW Law Reform Commission review of consent in relation to sexual offences**

The Wagga Women's Health Centre is a non-government organisation established in 1978. The Centre provides a variety of services for women from a feminist basis within a Trauma Informed framework, including:

- Counselling
- Crisis Support
- Economic Wellbeing
- Healthy Life style support
- Advocacy and referral
- Complementary therapies
- All options pregnancy counselling
- Library and computer access.

When the Wagga Women's Health Centre opened its doors nearly 40 years ago, ... and this is recorded... a woman came to the Centre on that first day as a victim of violence seeking support. Whilst violence was very much a part of women's experience many years ago, we thought that we would do ourselves out of work, ... that society would change, that social justice and criminal issues would have been addressed and that we would live in a better world.

So what has changed? Unfortunately, current ABS statistics now show that 1 in 5 women in Australia will experience sexual assault at some time in their life.

In the Wagga Women's Health Centre's most recent Annual Report [2016/17] the following was identified:

- 31% of presentations were for Violence and Abuse
- 38% of clients presented for appointments with the Trauma Counsellor
- 59% for appointments with the Crisis Worker.

It is important that systems and laws at all levels support individuals' rights to safety from crimes, to be safe in their own lives and choices and also to fair and equitable criminal and justice processes.

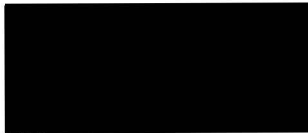
The Wagga Women's Health Centre applauds the NSW Law Reform Commission (NSWLRC) for undertaking a *Review of consent in relation to sexual offences*.

The Wagga Women's Health Centre has knowledge of the Rape and Domestic Violence Services Australia's submission to the NSW Law Reform Commission about the *review of consent in relation to sexual offences*.

The Wagga Women's Health Centre agrees with and endorses the Recommendations as listed by Rape and Domestic Violence Services Australia in their submission.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if required.

Yours sincerely



Gail Meyer  
Manager