



**Endorsement of the Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse (ADFVC): *Submission on Consolidation of Commonwealth Anti-Discrimination Laws Discussion Paper***

The Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA) endorses the above titled ADFVC submission. AWAVA agrees with the recommendations to ensure an express protection is included in the consolidated Act for women who encounter discrimination in the workplace, or in securing accommodation or services, as a consequence of experiencing, or having experienced domestic violence.

AWAVA is one of six National Women's Alliances funded by the Australian Government. AWAVA's key area of focus is addressing all forms violence against women, to *'ensure that all women and children are able to live free from all forms of violence and abuse'*. The Alliance recognises that gender violence is both a consequence and cause of gender inequity in all sectors of society and so it must be addressed by promoting women's empowerment. Integral to women's empowerment is their financial independence through employment and secure accommodation. The protections proposed by ADFVC would assist women who have experienced/are experiencing domestic violence and reduce further social and financial disadvantage, the clarification of responsibilities of employers and accommodation providers is welcomed.

As highlighted by ADFVC, these recommendations are consistent with the Commonwealth's National Plan to Address Violence Against Women and Their Children 2012-22 and the Australian Labor Party's recent resolution to *'ensure that Fair Work and anti-discrimination frameworks provide appropriate protection to victims of domestic violence in the workplace'*.<sup>1</sup>

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**Chair of AWAVA**

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<sup>1</sup> See Ben Aveling, All the Motions from National Conference 2011 (4 December 2011), amendment 448A. Available at: <http://ouralp.net/2011/12/04/all-the-motions-from-national-conference-2011/#448>.