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17 December 2019

Division Head
Macroeconomic Modelling and Policy Division
Treasury
Langton Cres
Parkes ACT 2600

By email: 2021CensusRegulations@treasury.gov.au

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Census of Population and Housing

We write to you about the importance of including questions on sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status in the 2021 Census.

About St Kilda Legal Service and the LGBTIQ Legal Service

St Kilda Legal Service (**SKLS**) provides free and accessible legal services to members of the community within the Cities of Port Phillip, Bayside, Stonnington and parts of Glen Eira. The Legal Service is committed to redressing inequalities within the legal system through casework, legal education, community development and law reform activities.

SKLS is proud to provide Victoria's first LGBTIQ health justice partnership with Thorne Harbour Health, which we launched in May 2018.

The LGBTIQ Legal Service is a state-wide service that provides advice and representation to the LGBTIQ community on a wide-range of legal issues, including housing, discrimination, employment matters and sexual harassment matters.

Why changes to the census matter

Since the LGBTIQ Legal Service began operating, it has been evident that many parts of the LGBTIQ community have particular legal needs that are currently not well-met by existing legal services. In order to map the impact that our small service has had on wellbeing of the broader LGBTIQ population in Victoria, it is vital that we have accurate data from the census that captures sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex data.

Without this data, it is more difficult for us to target the most vulnerable parts of our community to provide dedicated legal services in a safe and inclusive way.

We are aware that the ABS also asked the government to consider sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status questions to be included based on an overwhelming need for this data to be collected.

LGBTI people are part of the Australian population and everyone deserves to be counted.

We respectfully ask that you reconsider the inclusion of these questions in the Census 2021.

Yours faithfully

ST KILDA LEGAL SERVICE INC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AD', written in a cursive style.

Annie Davis

Principal Lawyer and Executive Officer

Sam Elkin

LGBTIQ Outreach Lawyer