



**Win for transgender rights:**  
Australian Federal Court affirms that  
trans women are women



On Friday 15 May 2026, the Full Federal Court ruled that a transgender woman **was discriminated against**, after being banned from a social app for women and girls.



This case affirmed that **transgender women are considered women under the law**, and it is unlawful to treat transgender women differently to cisgender women.

“Special measures” designed to promote equality for women cannot be used to discriminate against transgender women.

This case was brought under the federal Sex Discrimination Act, which protects people from discrimination because of their:



sexual orientation



gender identity



intersex status

It applies to:



work

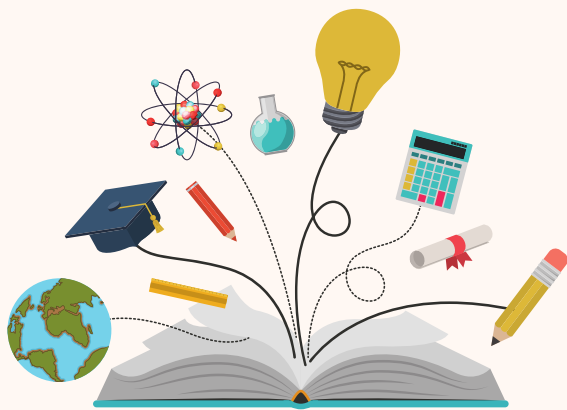


accommodati

on



clubs



education



goods,  
facilities, and  
services



**Australian Government**

federal laws  
and programs



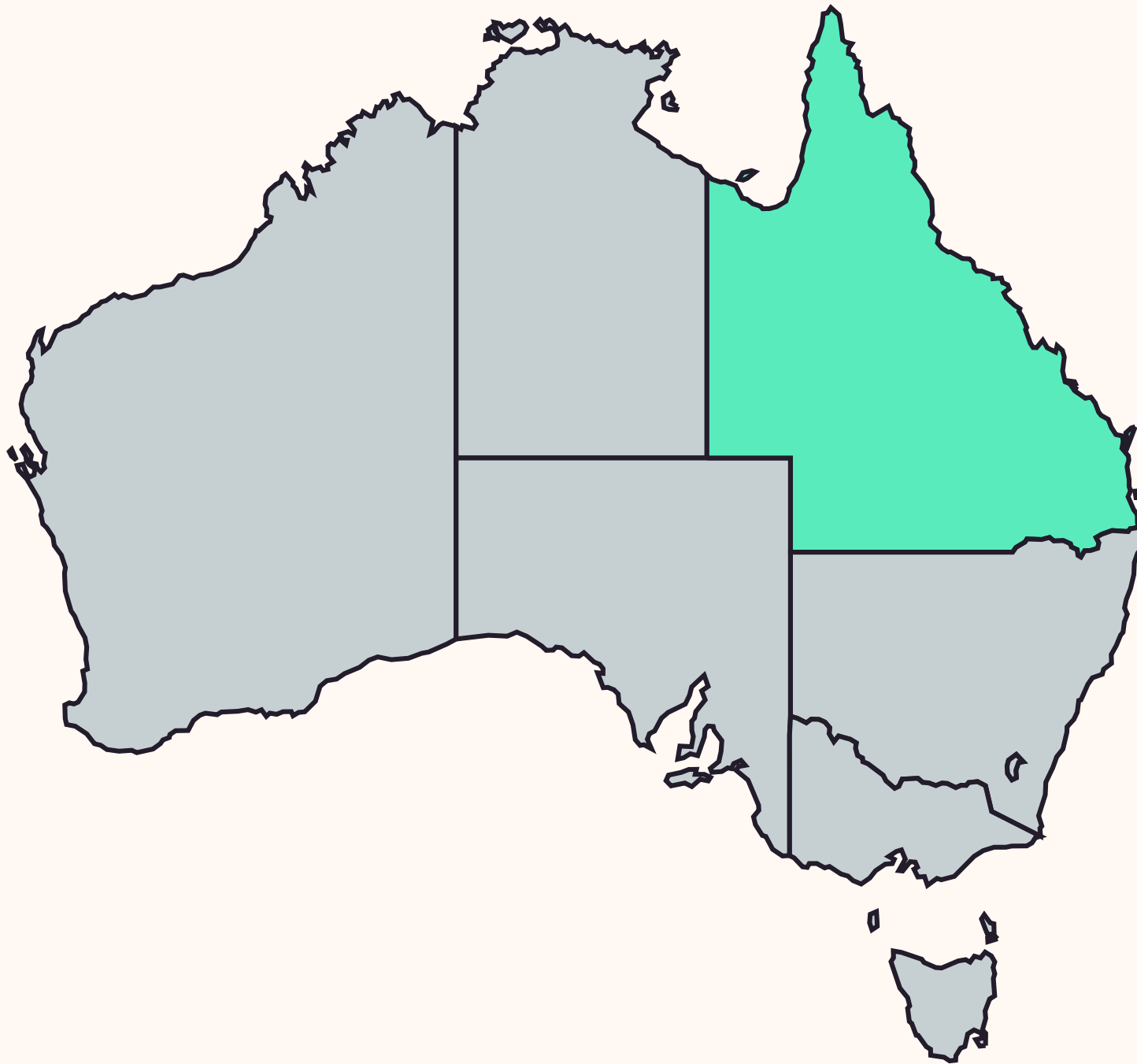
CEDAW

The Sex Discrimination Act is a part of Australia's **international obligations** under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. It's purpose is to create equal opportunity for all genders.



Queensland  
**Human Rights  
Commission**

Queenslanders are also protected by the **QLD Anti-Discrimination Act**. This protects LGBTIQ people from discrimination, and from hate speech and vilification.



If you have been discriminated against, you can make a complaint under either **the federal or state anti-discrimination laws**. Ask LGBTI Legal Service for advice about which one is most appropriate.



Thank you to Roxanne Tickle for her  
bravery in standing up for all transgender  
and gender diverse people in Australia.



If you have experienced discrimination in QLD, contact LGBTI Legal Service for free legal advice.