



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

21 January 2014

Mr Alex Greenwich  
Member for Sydney  
58 Oxford Street  
PADDINGTON NSW 2021

Dear Mr Greenwich

Thank you for your letter of 17 December 2013 about the treatment of lesbians and gay men in Papua New Guinea. I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Julie Bishop MP.

The Australian Government advocates strongly – bilaterally and in international forums – for non-discrimination, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Australia provides assistance across the region to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex persons. Through our aid program, Australia is funding activities to help provide services for HIV/AIDS, health and legal matters for LGBTI persons in isolated communities in Asia and the Pacific.

Issues relating to the safety, health and processes of assessment for lesbian and gay asylum seekers fall under the purview of the Department of Immigration and Border Protection. Accordingly, I have referred your letter to that Department.

Thank you for bringing your views to the attention of the Minister.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'K Logan'.

Kate Logan  
Assistant Secretary  
Papua New Guinea and Fiji Branch  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade