

AGE 10/7/79

# New struggle begins among the feminists

CANBERRA. — A new women's group is trying to have the National Women's Advisory Council abolished.

The group, called Women Who Want to be Women, has announced it will petition to Parliament for abolition of the council.

Behind the group's odd title lie some of the confusions and contradictions many Australian women feel.

Four W's is an American-inspired organisation with a long distance aversion to the US Equal Rights Amendment.

It will fight any attempt to introduce national anti-discrimination legislation in Australia.

A spokeswoman for Women Who Want to be Women complained to viewers on the nationwide 'Mike Walsh Show' recently that the label "discriminating" had become a dirty word.

The National Women's Advisory Council was set up by the Liberal Government after well-advertised and widespread consultations with women's groups all over Australia.

The advisory council represents an attempt by the Federal Government to consult women and to enact policies and legislation which take account of their diverse needs.

Already the council has begun to tackle the problems which have been aired by groups of Aboriginal and migrant women, and by women affected by many aspects of the Family Law Act.

Despite the diverse backgrounds, interests and occupations of the 12 members of the council, they are, according to Women Who Want to be Women, merely agents of "Women's Lib".

The Four-W group says the council is not representative of the many women who are housewives and mothers.

It is difficult, of course, to have a

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direct representative of those many women whose devotion to their house and family would exclude accepting membership on a National Advisory Council — Catch 22.

Convener of the National Women's Advisory Council is Mrs. Beryl Beaurepaire, vice-president of the Victorian division of the Liberal Party.

The reactions of some women's groups in our own country are similar to those in some Moslem countries where, confronted by economic and social changes, women are reaching for the veil.

Both are attempting to establish rigidly defined "women's places" in society.

The Advisory Council exists because of the consciousness now expressed by many women, that women's place is in the wider world, wherever women are and wherever they want to be.

But, as with the Four-Ws, there are many who need a more exclusive place.

Both radical and conservative women's groups are to be found among these exclusionists, one group making a cult of their separateness from men, the others making a religion of breast feeding and childbirth.

The National Advisory Council is faced with the difficulty of being asked to represent the views of women who want to make what can only be a part of life into a whole life, who want women to be only a part of what they can be.

The name of this latest group suggests that its members know what they want to be. They want to be women. But what are they now?

It seems fairly unlikely that trying to stifle the Advisory Council through emotionally-loaded anti-council petitions to Parliament will help them to find out.