



29th March 2012

Dear Senate Committee for Education, Employment and Workplace Relations,

The Victorian Trades Hall Council endorses the ACTU's submission to the Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee on the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Amendment Bill 2012.

The VTHC agrees that amendment to the EOWW Act is much needed. We also congratulate the government for taking a proactive role and amending the legislative and institutional EEO framework.

The VTHC supports the key points:

- (1) Identification and implementation of mechanisms to uncover the more than half of employers legally required to report but who do not;
- (2) The inclusion of 5 Key Gender Equality Indicators under which the detailed data required to be submitted by employers in their reports;
- (3) The mechanism by which unions will be able to access employers EEO reports in a timely fashion, allowing unions to verify or comment on the content of the report before being assessed by the Agency; and
- (4) The drafting of the compliance requirements into the Commonwealth procurement framework are yet to be finalised.

The VTHC also agrees that the timelines for the implementation of the new reporting regime are too lengthy.

The VTHC would like to thank the ACTU for their continued advocacy for gender equality and for submitting a strong submission for amendments to the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Amendment Bill 2012.

Yours sincerely

Brian Boyd
Secretary
Victorian Trades Hall Council



**SERVING
THE WORKING
MEN AND WOMEN
OF VICTORIA FOR
150 YEARS**

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