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Dear Economics References Committee

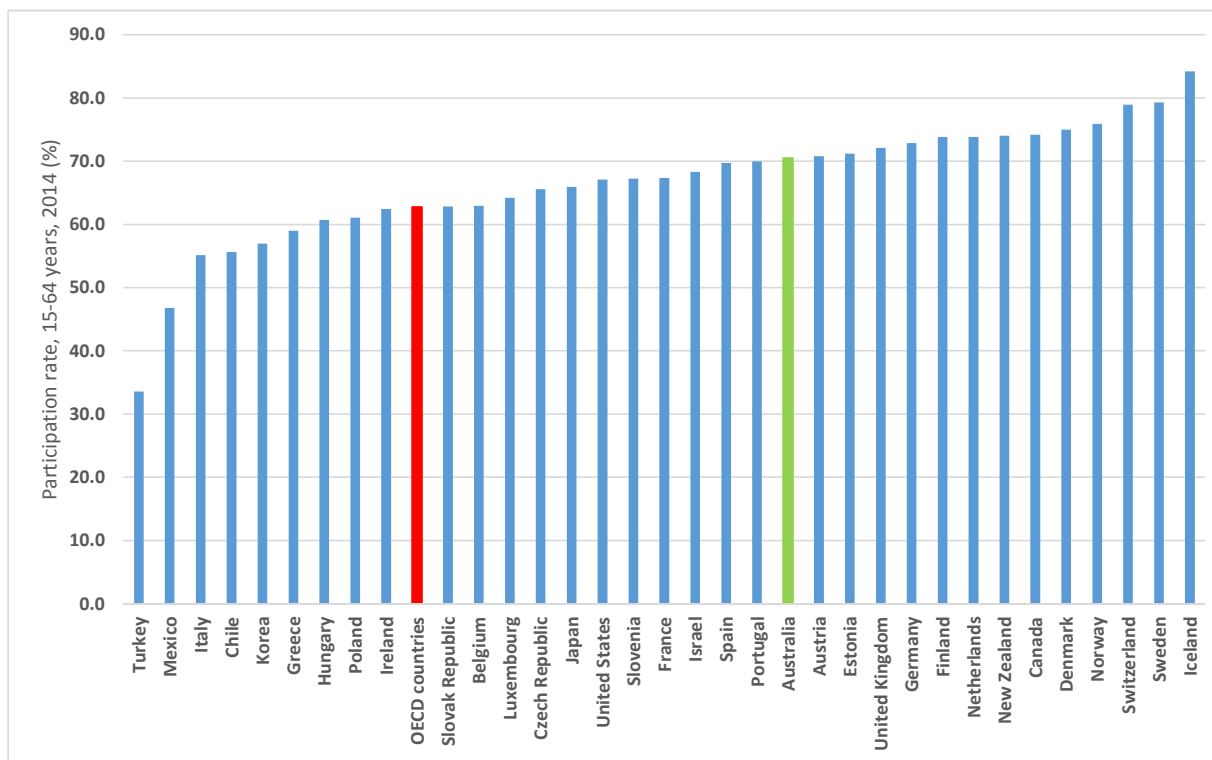
I refer to the public hearing on 12 Feb 2016 held in Sydney in relation to the Economic Security for Women in Retirement Inquiry.

At the hearing, the Hon Susan Ryan AO, Age and Disability Discrimination Commissioner undertook to provide the Committee with international statistics in relation to female labour force participation rates to inform its deliberations.

Please find attached annual OECD data on participation rates for males, females and persons aged 15-64 years (latest annual data are for 2014). The included chart focusing on the female participation rate across OECD countries shows that Australia's female labour force participation rate was 70.5 per cent in 2014, above the OECD average of 62.8 per cent.

**Female participation rate 15-64yrs 2014**

Turkey	33.6
Mexico	46.8
Italy	55.2
Chile	55.7
Korea	57.0
Greece	59.0
Hungary	60.7
Poland	61.1
Ireland	62.5
<b>OECD countries</b>	<b>62.8</b>
Slovak Republic	62.8
Belgium	63.0
Luxembourg	64.2
Czech Republic	65.6
Japan	66.0
United States	67.1
Slovenia	67.3
France	67.4
Israel	68.4
Spain	69.8
Portugal	70.0
<b>Australia</b>	<b>70.5</b>
Austria	70.8
Estonia	71.2
United Kingdom	72.1
Germany	72.9
Finland	73.8
Netherlands	73.8
New Zealand	74.1
Canada	74.2
Denmark	75.0
Norway	75.9
Switzerland	79.0
Sweden	79.3
Iceland	84.2



Dataset: LFS by sex and age - indicators

		Frequency Annual															
		Series Labour force participation rate															
		Age 15 to 64															
		Unit Percentage															
Sex	Country	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
Men	Australia	82.3	82.2	82.2	82.0	82.0	82.6	82.7	83.0	83.0	82.6	82.9	82.8	82.5	82.4	82.2	
	Austria	79.9	79.3	79.7	79.9	77.4	78.0	78.9	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	79.9	80.2	80.4	80.0	
	Belgium	73.7	73.2	73.2	72.9	73.4	73.9	73.4	73.6	73.3	72.8	73.4	72.3	72.5	72.7	72.4	
	Canada	81.9	81.9	82.7	83.0	82.8	82.5	82.1	82.4	82.6	81.7	81.4	81.4	81.3	81.4	81.3	
	Chile	78.9	78.3	77.9	77.6	77.0	76.7	77.4	77.4	78.1	77.3	77.8	78.6	78.0	78.1	77.6	
	Czech Republic	79.4	79.0	78.9	78.2	77.9	78.4	78.2	78.1	78.1	78.5	78.6	78.7	79.5	80.5	81.2	
	Denmark	84.2	83.8	83.6	83.8	84.0	83.6	84.1	83.7	84.3	83.6	82.6	82.3	81.4	80.6	81.1	
	Estonia	76.3	75.3	73.6	74.2	73.4	72.9	76.0	77.5	78.1	77.5	76.7	78.2	78.5	78.6	79.3	
	Finland	77.6	77.9	77.3	77.2	76.7	76.9	77.5	77.4	78.1	75.8	76.7	77.5	77.3	76.0	77.1	
	France	75.2	75.1	75.5	75.7	75.5	75.2	74.9	74.7	74.7	75.0	74.9	74.7	75.3	75.4	75.3	
	Germany	78.9	79.0	78.7	78.0	79.2	80.6	81.4	81.8	82.1	82.2	82.4	82.7	82.5	82.6	82.5	
	Greece	77.4	76.9	77.2	77.7	78.3	78.4	78.5	78.4	78.4	78.5	78.3	77.2	76.9	76.9	76.0	
	Hungary	67.5	67.2	67.1	67.6	67.2	67.9	68.9	68.6	68.0	67.7	67.8	68.4	69.6	71.0	73.4	
	Iceland	89.8	90.0	88.9	90.1	89.1	89.8	91.4	91.6	90.9	88.4	88.2	87.8	87.6	88.8	89.1	
	Ireland	80.0	79.9	78.9	79.0	79.8	80.8	81.6	81.6	81.0	79.3	77.4	76.7	76.7	77.2	77.1	
	Israel	77.5	77.1	75.9	75.7	76.3	76.3	76.7	77.0	76.8	76.1	76.3	75.9	75.9	76.0	76.1	
	Italy	74.3	74.2	74.5	74.8	74.5	74.4	74.5	74.3	75.5	74.7	74.2	73.9	74.8	74.4	74.7	
	Japan	85.2	85.0	84.8	84.6	84.2	84.4	84.8	85.2	85.2	84.8	84.8	84.4	84.3	84.6	84.9	
	Korea	77.1	77.1	77.9	78.0	78.3	78.2	77.7	77.6	77.3	76.9	77.1	77.4	77.6	77.6	78.6	
	Luxembourg	76.4	76.1	77.0	75.5	75.6	76.0	75.3	75.0	74.7	76.6	76.0	75.0	75.9	76.3	77.2	
	Mexico	84.7	84.2	83.8	83.0	83.7	83.1	84.2	83.7	83.5	82.3	82.9	82.3	83.0	82.5	82.1	
	Netherlands	83.2	83.3	83.7	82.8	82.7	82.8	82.7	83.8	84.8	84.6	83.8	83.6	84.2	84.7	84.2	
	New Zealand	83.1	83.3	83.9	82.9	83.7	84.4	85.0	84.9	84.4	83.9	83.6	83.7	83.1	83.1	84.1	
	Norway	84.8	84.0	83.8	82.8	82.5	82.3	81.4	81.8	82.9	81.4	80.8	80.1	80.7	80.4	80.2	
	Poland	71.7	71.5	70.8	70.2	70.4	71.0	70.1	70.0	70.9	71.9	72.1	72.6	73.3	73.9	74.6	
	Portugal	78.9	79.4	79.9	79.3	78.8	78.9	79.2	79.2	79.2	78.2	77.8	78.0	77.9	76.5	76.7	
	Slovak Republic	76.8	77.4	76.7	76.7	76.5	76.4	76.3	75.8	76.4	76.3	76.0	76.6	77.1	77.2	77.6	
	Slovenia	71.9	72.8	72.5	72.0	74.5	75.1	74.9	75.8	75.8	75.6	75.4	73.9	73.7	74.2	74.3	
	Spain	80.4	79.8	80.5	81.3	81.5	82.2	82.5	82.6	82.8	82.0	81.8	81.5	81.2	80.9	80.7	
	Sweden	81.5	81.7	81.5	81.1	81.1	82.7	82.8	81.4	81.6	81.3	81.8	82.4	82.6	83.3	83.6	
	Switzerland	89.4	89.2	88.7	88.5	88.0	87.4	87.8	88.2	88.0	87.8	88.3	88.7	88.8	88.6	88.5	
	Turkey	76.9	76.1	75.1	74.0	74.6	75.0	74.4	74.4	74.8	75.2	75.4	76.4	75.8	76.3	76.6	
	United Kingdom	84.1	83.5	83.5	83.8	83.3	83.1	83.4	83.3	83.5	83.2	82.5	82.5	83.1	82.9	83.1	
	United States	83.9	83.4	83.0	82.2	81.9	81.8	81.9	81.7	81.4	80.4	79.6	78.9	78.8	78.7	78.5	
	OECD countries	80.9	80.6	80.4	80.1	80.1	80.2	80.4	80.4	80.5	79.9	79.7	79.5	79.7	79.6	79.7	
	Women	Australia	65.3	65.9	66.2	67.0	66.7	68.2	68.9	69.4	70.0	70.1	70.0	70.5	70.4	70.5	70.5
		Austria	61.8	62.3	63.7	64.3	63.5	64.9	66.0	67.1	67.8	68.7	68.9	69.3	70.0	70.7	70.8
		Belgium	56.4	55.1	56.3	56.9	58.2	59.5	59.5	60.4	60.8	60.9	61.8	61.1	61.3	62.3	63.0
		Canada	70.4	70.8	72.1	73.3	73.4	73.0	73.3	74.2	74.2	74.3	74.1	74.3	74.7	74.2	74.0
		Chile	39.1	38.3	38.2	39.7	41.1	42.3	43.3	44.4	46.6	47.4	51.8	53.9	54.6	54.9	55.7
		Czech Republic	63.7	63.2	62.8	62.5	62.2	62.4	62.3	61.5	61.0	61.5	62.2	63.5	65.1	65.6	66.6
		Denmark	75.6	75.9	75.5	75.1	76.2	75.9	77.0	76.4	77.0	76.8	76.0	76.1	75.8	75.6	75.0
		Estonia	66.3	65.9	64.8	66.3	66.7	67.6	69.4	68.8	70.3	70.5	71.0	71.4	71.3	71.7	71.2
		Finland	72.1	72.5	72.7	72.1	72.0	72.9	73.2	73.9	74.0	73.5	72.5	72.7	73.4	73.5	73.8
		France	62.5	62.3	62.6	64.3	64.6	64.8	64.8	65.2	65.4	66.0	66.1	66.1	66.7	66.9	67.4
Germany		63.3	63.8	64.2	64.5	65.8	66.9	68.5	69.4	69.7	70.4	70.8	71.9	71.9	72.6	72.9	
Greece		50.5	49.8	51.2	52.3	54.2	54.5	55.0	54.8	55.0	56.5	57.5	57.5	58.3	58.3	59.0	
Hungary		52.6	52.4	52.7	53.9	54.0	55.1	55.5	54.9	54.7	55.0	56.3	56.6	58.0	58.6	60.7	
Iceland		83.3	83.1	82.2	83.9	81.8	83.4	84.2	83.6	82.5	82.0	82.7	82.4	83.3	84.3	84.2	
Ireland		56.3	56.7	57.5	57.8	58.4	60.8	61.9	63.5	63.3	62.8	62.3	62.2	63.2	62.5	62.5	
Israel		62.5	62.8	62.3	63.5	64.1	64.6	65.0	65.5	65.3	66.3	66.4	66.1	67.1	67.3	68.4	
Italy		46.3	47.3	47.9	48.3	50.8	50.5	50.8	50.6	52.4	51.8	51.8	52.2	54.2	54.3	55.2	
Japan		59.6	60.1	59.7	59.9	60.2	60.8	61.3	61.9	62.2	62.9	63.2	63.0	63.4	65.0	66.0	
Korea		52.0	52.8	53.5	52.9	54.1	54.5	54.8	54.8	54.7	53.9	54.5	54.9	55.2	55.6	57.0	
Luxembourg		51.7	52.0	53.5	53.5	55.8	57.0	58.2	58.9	58.7	60.7	60.3	60.7	62.8	63.2	64.2	
Mexico		41.0	40.4	41.0	40.6	43.0	43.2	44.5	45.3	45.9	45.2	46.2	45.9	47.7	47.8	46.8	
Netherlands		65.2	65.4	66.9	66.3	67.0	68.0	68.8	70.4	71.7	72.3	72.6	73.1	74.3	74.6	73.8	
New Zealand		67.2	68.1	68.8	69.0	69.2	70.4	71.0	71.5	71.7	71.8	71.6	72.1	72.4	73.0	74.1	
Norway		76.5	76.4	76.7	75.8	75.7	75.4	74.8	75.9	77.4	76.5	75.6	75.8	75.9	76.1	75.9	
Poland		59.9	59.9	58.9	58.4	58.2	58.3	58.8	56.5	57.0	57.8	58.5	58.9	59.7	60.1	61.1	
Portugal		63.8	64.8	65.6	66.4	66.8	67.8	68.3	68.7	68.9	68.9	69.7	69.5	69.7	69.8	70.0	
Slovak Republic		63.2	63.7	63.2	63.5	62.9	61.5	60.9	60.7	61.4	60.8	61.3	60.8	61.7	62.4	62.8	
Slovenia		62.9	63.2	63.0	62.1	65.0	66.1	66.7	66.6	67.5	67.9	67.4	66.5	66.9	66.6	67.3	
Spain		52.9	51.6	54.7	56.7	58.2	59.7	61.6	62.8	64.5	66.0	67.1	68.3	69.3	69.7	69.8	
Sweden		76.4	77.1	77.1	76.8	76.6	77.7	77.7	76.8	77.0	76.4	76.2	77.4	77.9	78.8	79.3	
Switzerland		71.6	73.2	73.9	74.1	73.9	74.3	74.7	75.0	76.6	77.1	76.4	76.7	77.2	78.0	79.0	
Turkey		28.0	28.5	29.5	28.1	25.2	25.2	25.6	25.7	26.7	28.4	30.2	31.5	32.3	33.7	33.6	
United Kingdom		68.9	68.9	69.4	69.2	69.5	69.6	70.4	69.8	70.2	70.2	70.2	70.4	70.9	71.6	72.1	
United States		70.7	70.4	70.1	69.7	69.2	69.2	69.3	69.1	69.3	69.0	68.4	67.8	67.6	67.2	67.1	
OECD countries		59.1	59.2	59.4	59.5	59.9	60.3	60.7	60.9	61.4	61.6	61.8	61.8	62.3	62.6	62.8	
All persons		Australia	73.8	74.1	74.1	74.5	74.4	75.4	75.8	76.2	76.5	76.4	76.4	76.6	76.4	76.4	76.3
		Austria	70.8	70.7	71.7	72.0	70.4	71.4	72.4	73.5	73.9	74.3	74.4	74.6	75.1	75.5	75.4
		Belgium	65.1	64.2	64.8	64.9	65.9	66.7	66.5	67.1	67.1	67.5	67.7				