



Employment Committee to discuss pay equity with Scotland and New Zealand at public hearings

The House of Representatives Employment and Workplace Relations Committee will speak with *Close the Gap* (Scotland) and the Department of Labour (New Zealand) as part of the Committee's inquiry into pay equity and associated issues related to increasing participation in the workforce.

"The Committee looks forward to getting an international perspective on pay equity issues" said the Committee Chair, Sharryn Jackson MP.

"The gender wage gap is not an issue isolated to Australia, and the Committee looks to explore experiences in addressing pay equity in both Scotland and New Zealand and how these may apply in an Australian context".

The Committee will be speaking via teleconference with representatives of *Close the Gap* from Scotland and with the Department of Labour from the New Zealand.

The public hearings are as follows:

- ***Close the Gap* - Tuesday 11 August 2009, 6:30pm, Committee Room 2R1; and**
- **Department of Labour – Thursday 13 August 2009, 11:15am, Committee Room 1R3.**

Discussions may cover the need for education and information among employers, employees and trade unions and the need for legislative and administrative reform to address pay equity in Australia.

Further details on the inquiry, including the terms of reference, background documents, membership of the Committee and advice on making submissions can be obtained on the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/ewr>, by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4162 or emailing ewr.reps@aph.gov.au. This hearing will be webcast live (audio only) on: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair, Sharryn Jackson, on (02) 6277 4044
For background information, contact the Committee Secretary, on (02) 6277 4162