



Federal Government pay equity policy?

The National Foundation for Australian Women is calling for a pay equity policy from the government in its submission to the House of Representatives Employment and Workplace Relations Committee's inquiry into pay equity and associated issues related to increasing female participation in the workforce. NFAW argue that 'pay equity is a human right'.

'Does lower pay occur because of the type of work that women choose to perform, or because women perform the work?' is one of the questions posed by the National Foundation of Australian Women.

The Foundation added that: 'Men achieve significantly higher pay outcomes than women when discretionary pay components are taken into account. Are men choosing to work longer hours or are they more likely to have the hours they work recognised and rewarded?'

Committee Chair, Ms Sharryn Jackson said, 'The National Foundation for Australian Women has raised a number of issues in relation to the importance of pay equity to human rights increasing female participation in the workforce, economic independence, work/life balance and the economy which highlight the urgent need to address the underlying cause of the widening gender pay inequity in Australia.'

The National Foundation for Australian Women will appear before the House Employment and Workplace Relations Committee in Committee Room 1R3 Parliament House Canberra on Thursday 12 February from 11.15 am to discuss this and other issues relevant to pay equity and women's participation in the workforce.

Discussions should also cover other factors that may impact disproportionately on women's employment options and conditions and the need for further legislative reform to address pay equity in Australia.

The Committee will continue to welcome submissions to the inquiry.

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