



## **Pay equity important for social inclusion**

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference emphasises that ‘Every person in Australia has a right to human dignity and to be able to enjoy full participation in society’ 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.

Australia needs to address the issues that are of great importance to the ‘many people who are greatly disadvantaged by current arrangements in the workplace’, the Conference said.

The Conference added that social inclusion is central to the core values and that ‘Equity is a fundamental tenet of a democratic society, a precondition of social inclusion’.

Committee Chair, Ms Sharryn Jackson said, ‘The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has raised a number of issues including the Federal Minimum Wage, discrimination, childcare costs in relation to the importance of pay equity to human rights increasing female participation in the workforce.’

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference will appear before the House Employment and Workplace Relations Committee in Committee Room 1R3 Parliament House Canberra on Thursday 12 March 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](mailto: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