



Women with disabilities not getting a fair go

“Australians with a disability are much less likely to be employed than people without a disability” and furthermore “...women with disabilities are at a further disadvantage because of the combined discrimination based on gender and discrimination based on disability” so say Women with Disabilities Australia (WWDA) in their 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.

In its submission WWDA identify a number of barriers to entering employment for women with disabilities which include:

- Lack of understanding of the complexity and nature of disability;
- Lack of access to education and training;
- Inaccessible and unresponsive employment services; and
- Poor job design and inflexible working arrangements.

“The Committee looks forward to discussing possible strategies and solutions to addressing the challenges that face women with a disability when entering or re-entering the workforce” said Ms Sharryn Jackson, Committee Chair.

Representatives of WWDA will provide evidence before the House Employment and Workplace Relations Committee in Committee Room 1R3 Parliament House Canberra on Thursday 4 June from 11.15 am to discuss their submission and other factors that may impact disproportionately on women’s employment options, and the adequacy of current data to reliably monitor employment changes that may impact on pay equity issues.

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