

eS4W 2012 Budget Comment

From Parenting Payment to Newstart: not a fair deal without vocational education and training.

economic Security4Women (eS4W) understands the aim of the Gillard Government to ensure single parents are supported to find and start work once their children are at primary school; however we are concerned about the potential barriers to this transition and the impact on their economic well being if and when some families have to survive on the NewStart Allowance.

Without skills and access to formal and informal childcare it will be extremely difficult for many women (and men) to get family friendly, flexible work arrangements that pay enough to cover the costs of raising a family in a single income household. And those costs will have to include out of school hours care and care to cover illness and other interruptions to school attendance.

To be fair to parents and their children, this move should also be accompanied with gender inclusive policy action to target women's skills development, particularly in the emergent 'green economy', mining and construction industries. It should also offer a significant increase in the JET childcare and training assistance.

eS4W is calling for national Vocational Education and Training (VET) policies that focus on gender equity and that respond to the complexity and challenges associated with gender and when gender intersects with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background, with disabilities, with culturally and or linguistically diverse backgrounds, with low socio economic backgrounds and with geographical disadvantage.

See our position paper:

Skills shortage? Improve career pathways for women and girls in emergent 'green' industries and non-traditional occupations
at <http://www.security4women.org.au/wp-content/uploads/eS4W-Position-Paper-Viable-Employment-Women-Girls.pdf>