

MEDIA RELEASE

6th March 2013
International Women's Day 8th March 2013

Gender on the agenda: Women and work and care

economic Security4Women congratulates our member organisation, the NT Working Women's Centre on the opening of their new office in Alice Springs on 7th March.

As International Women's Day is celebrated around the world, economic Security4Women is sending our best wishes to the women of Alice Springs in general and to the women of the NT Working Women's Centre in particular.

Working Women's Centres in the NT, Queensland and South Australia provide information, support, advice and advocacy services to women on work-related issues. For many women, this advice and advocacy relates to their juggle between their paid work and unpaid care work. Some women need to take time off paid work altogether due to the lack of family friendly work conditions and or the lack of appropriate and affordable care services.

Anna Davis, co-Coordinator of the NT Working Women's Centre said: "Unfortunately, women still bear the main brunt of unpaid care work, and it is not easy to juggle this with paid work, particularly when the legislated rights to flexible work and extended parental leave are not enforceable".

"Women are responsible for the bulk of the care load – both unpaid and paid – and this does have a significant negative impact on their employment security, incomes and retirement savings. Women contributed 60 per cent of the 21.4 billion hours of unpaid care work (in 2009-2010) and we all know that this restricts their capacity for paid work" said Ms Sandra Cook, Chair of eS4W and Policy Advisor to BPW Australia.

eS4W is one of six national women's alliances and is made up of 19 women's organisations that cover a range of different interests but who are united in the belief that lifelong economic wellbeing is a high priority for Australian women.

"Economic security enables women to make choices and live independently; it enriches all aspects of their lives and those of their families including their education, health, employment, personal safety and financial security" said Ms Sally Jope, acting Executive Officer of eS4W.

"The theme for IWD in 2013 is 'Gender on the agenda: maintaining momentum' and our members are maintaining a gender lens on the Care Economy; we will keep it in the public view especially for the month of March. We will do this to make sure everyone knows what can be done to sustain the supply of care – for an aging population – and to improve the economic wellbeing of women, now and into the future".

eS4W engages with Australian women to identify the issues they face and establish those of primary importance. The alliance then contributes to national policy reform relevant to the lifelong economic wellbeing for women.

"This is what we will be doing around the care economy; taking the findings of our research to the decision makers as well as explaining them to our members and the wider community" said Ms Jope.

To find out more about the care economy visit <http://www.security4women.org.au/the-australian-care-economy>

Media Contact: Sally Jope Mob 0423 198 567 or Coordinator 1300 918 273 or Anna Davis 0405184501