

MEDIA RELEASE

31st January 2013

Size does count: measuring gender equality in the workplace

economic Security4Women welcomed the opportunity to participate in the development of the reporting matters under the Gender Equality Indicators ('GEIs') in the *Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012* ('WGE Act'). Yesterday we made our submission to the Australian Government and it is now available on our website [click here](#).

eS4W is an alliance of nineteen women's organisations united in the belief that lifelong economic wellbeing is a high priority for Australian women. As such an alliance we naturally expressed support for reporting matters that can be used to track improvements to gender equality in employment and in the workplace and for a reporting framework that can be used to gather information that employers can use to work towards this, via the objectives of the Act.

economic Security4Women particularly wants to see the promotion to all employers of one key objective of the Act, that of the business case for gender equality in employment and the workplace; that gender equality will improve the productivity and competitiveness of Australian business, large and small.

Of course we primarily want this legislation and its associated reporting matters to result in the removal of barriers to women's workforce participation which in itself will contribute to increased productivity.

However we urge the Government to ensure that the reporting matters result in meaningful data that can assist employers to track their own progress in gender equality as well as inform them of the best practice of other employers, of other industries that may inspire change.

eS4W contributed to the development of the WGE Act by participating in the Government's Implementation Advisory Group. eS4W also made a submission to the Senate Committee on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations review of the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Amendment Bill 2012.

We join with the other supporters of workplace gender equality and trust the reporting matters can be used to promote, encourage and ultimately require gender equality to be demonstrated in the workplace.

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