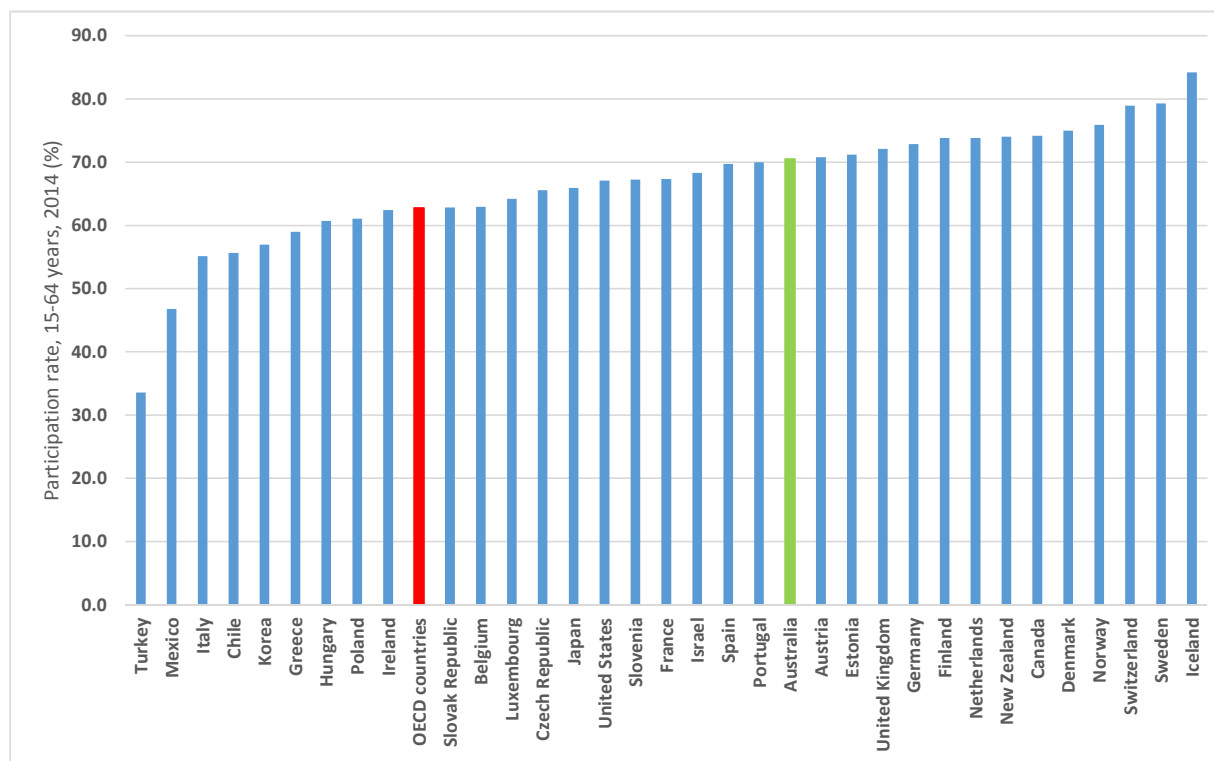

Dear Economics References Committee

I refer to the public hearing on 12 Feb 2016 held in Sydney in relation to the Economic Security for Women in Retirement Inquiry.

At the hearing, the Hon Susan Ryan AO, Age and Disability Discrimination Commissioner undertook to provide the Committee with international statistics in relation to female labour force participation rates to inform its deliberations.

Please find attached annual OECD data on participation rates for males, females and persons aged 15-64 years (latest annual data are for 2014). The included chart focusing on the female participation rate across OECD countries shows that Australia's female labour force participation rate was 70.5 per cent in 2014, above the OECD average of 62.8 per cent.

Female participation rate 15-64yrs	2014
Turkey	33.6
Mexico	46.8
Italy	55.2
Chile	55.7
Korea	57.0
Greece	59.0
Hungary	60.7
Poland	61.1
Ireland	62.5
OECD countries	62.8
Slovak Republic	62.8
Belgium	63.0
Luxembourg	64.2
Czech Republic	65.6
Japan	66.0
United States	67.1
Slovenia	67.3
France	67.4
Israel	68.4
Spain	69.8
Portugal	70.0
Australia	70.5
Austria	70.8
Estonia	71.2
United Kingdom	72.1
Germany	72.9
Finland	73.8
Netherlands	73.8
New Zealand	74.1
Canada	74.2
Denmark	75.0
Norway	75.9
Switzerland	79.0
Sweden	79.3
Iceland	84.2



Dataset: LFS by sex and age - indicators

		Frequency Annual															
		Series Labour force participation rate															
		Age 15 to 64															
		Unit Percentage															
Sex	Country	Time	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Men	Australia		82.3	82.2	82.2	82.0	82.0	82.6	82.7	83.0	83.0	82.6	82.9	82.8	82.5	82.4	82.2
	Austria		79.9	79.3	79.7	79.9	77.4	78.0	78.9	80.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	79.9	80.2	80.4	80.0
	Belgium		73.7	73.2	73.2	72.9	73.4	73.9	73.4	73.6	73.3	72.8	73.4	72.3	72.5	72.7	72.4
	Canada		81.9	81.9	82.7	83.0	82.8	82.5	82.1	82.4	82.6	81.7	81.4	81.4	81.3	81.4	81.3
	Chile		78.9	78.3	77.9	77.6	77.0	76.7	77.4	77.4	78.1	77.3	77.7	78.6	78.0	78.1	77.6
	Czech Republic		79.4	79.0	78.9	78.2	77.9	78.4	78.2	78.1	78.1	78.5	78.6	78.7	79.5	80.5	81.2
	Denmark		84.2	83.8	83.6	83.8	84.0	83.6	84.1	83.7	84.3	83.6	82.6	82.3	81.4	80.6	81.1
	Estonia		76.3	75.3	73.6	74.2	73.4	72.9	76.0	77.5	78.1	77.5	76.7	78.2	78.5	78.6	79.3
	Finland		77.6	77.9	77.3	77.2	76.7	76.9	77.5	77.4	78.1	75.8	76.7	77.5	77.3	76.0	77.1
	France		75.2	75.1	75.5	75.7	75.5	75.2	74.9	74.7	75.0	74.9	74.7	75.0	74.9	74.7	75.3
	Germany		78.9	79.0	78.7	78.0	79.2	80.6	81.4	81.8	82.1	82.2	82.4	82.7	82.5	82.6	82.5
	Greece		77.4	76.9	77.2	77.7	78.3	78.4	78.5	78.4	78.4	78.5	78.3	77.2	76.9	76.9	76.0
	Hungary		67.5	67.2	67.1	67.6	67.2	67.9	68.9	68.6	68.0	67.7	67.8	68.4	69.6	71.0	73.4
	Iceland		89.8	90.0	88.9	90.1	89.1	89.8	91.4	91.6	90.9	88.4	88.2	87.8	87.6	88.8	89.1
	Ireland		80.0	79.9	78.9	79.0	79.8	80.8	81.6	81.6	81.0	79.3	77.4	76.7	76.7	77.2	77.1
	Israel		77.5	77.1	75.9	75.7	76.3	76.3	76.7	77.0	76.8	76.1	76.3	75.9	75.9	76.0	76.1
	Italy		74.3	74.2	74.5	74.8	74.5	74.4	74.5	74.3	75.5	74.7	74.2	73.9	74.8	74.4	74.7
	Japan		85.2	85.0	84.8	84.6	84.2	84.4	84.8	85.2	85.2	84.8	84.8	84.4	84.3	84.6	84.9
	Korea		77.1	77.1	77.9	78.0	78.3	78.2	77.7	77.6	77.3	76.9	77.1	77.4	77.6	77.6	78.6
	Luxembourg		76.4	76.1	77.0	75.5	75.6	76.0	75.3	75.0	74.7	76.6	76.0	75.0	75.9	76.3	77.2
	Mexico		84.7	84.2	83.8	83.0	83.7	83.1	84.2	83.7	83.5	82.3	82.9	82.3	83.0	82.5	82.1
	Netherlands		83.2	83.3	83.7	82.8	82.7	82.8	82.7	83.8	84.8	84.6	83.8	83.6	84.2	84.7	84.2
	New Zealand		83.1	83.3	83.9	82.9	83.7	84.4	85.0	84.9	84.4	83.9	83.6	83.7	83.1	83.1	84.1
	Norway		84.8	84.0	83.8	82.8	82.5	82.3	81.4	81.8	82.9	81.4	80.8	80.1	80.7	80.4	80.2
	Poland		71.7	71.5	70.9	70.2	70.4	71.0	70.1	70.0	70.9	71.9	72.1	72.6	73.3	73.9	74.6
	Portugal		78.9	79.4	79.9	79.3	78.8	78.9	79.2	79.2	79.2	78.2	77.8	78.0	77.9	78.5	76.7
	Slovak Republic		76.8	77.4	76.7	76.7	76.5	76.4	76.3	75.8	76.4	76.3	76.0	76.6	77.1	77.2	77.6
	Slovenia		71.9	72.8	72.5	72.0	74.5	75.1	74.9	75.8	75.8	75.6	75.4	73.9	73.7	74.2	74.3
	Spain		80.4	79.8	80.5	81.3	81.5	82.2	82.5	82.6	82.8	82.0	81.8	81.5	81.2	80.9	80.7
	Sweden		81.5	81.7	81.5	81.1	81.1	82.7	82.8	81.4	81.6	81.3	81.8	82.4	82.6	83.3	83.6
	Switzerland		89.4	89.2	88.7	88.5	88.0	87.4	87.8	88.2	88.0	87.8	88.3	88.7	88.8	88.6	88.5
	Turkey		76.9	76.1	75.1	74.0	74.6	75.0	74.4	74.4	74.8	75.2	75.4	76.4	75.8	76.3	76.6
	United Kingdom		84.1	83.5	83.5	83.8	83.3	83.1	83.4	83.3	83.5	83.2	82.5	82.5	83.1	82.9	83.1
	United States		83.9	83.4	83.0	82.2	81.9	81.8	81.9	81.7	81.4	80.4	79.6	78.9	78.8	78.7	78.5
	OECD countries		80.9	80.6	80.4	80.1	80.1	80.2	80.4	80.4	80.5	79.9	79.7	79.5	79.7	79.6	79.7
Women	Australia		65.3	65.9	66.2	67.0	66.7	68.2	68.9	69.4	70.0	70.1	70.0	70.5	70.4	70.5	70.5
	Austria		61.8	62.3	63.7	64.3	63.5	64.9	66.0	67.1	67.8	68.7	68.9	69.3	70.0	70.7	70.8
	Belgium		56.4	55.1	56.3	56.9	58.2	59.5	59.5	60.4	60.8	60.9	61.8	61.1	61.3	62.3	63.0
	Canada		70.4	70.8	72.1	73.3	73.4	73.0	73.3	74.2	74.2	74.3	74.1	74.3	74.7	74.7	74.2
	Chile		39.1	38.3	38.2	39.7	41.1	42.3	43.3	44.4	46.6	47.4	51.8	53.9	54.6	54.9	55.7
	Czech Republic		63.7	63.2	62.8	62.5	62.2	62.4	62.3	61.5	61.0	61.5	62.2	63.5	65.1	65.6	65.6
	Denmark		75.6	75.9	75.5	75.1	76.2	75.9	77.0	76.4	77.0	76.8	76.0	76.1	75.8	76.6	76.0
	Estonia		66.3	65.9	64.8	66.3	66.7	67.6	69.4	68.8	70.3	70.5	71.0	71.4	71.3	71.7	71.2
	Finland		72.1	72.5	72.7	72.1	72.0	72.9	73.2	73.9	74.0	73.5	72.5	72.7	73.4	73.5	73.8
	France		62.5	62.3	62.6	64.3	64.6	64.8	64.8	65.2	65.4	66.0	66.1	66.1	66.7	66.9	67.4
	Germany		63.3	63.8	64.2	64.5	65.8	66.9	68.5	69.4	69.7	70.4	70.8	71.9	71.9	72.6	72.9
	Greece		50.5	49.8	51.2	52.3	54.2	54.5	55.0	54.8	55.0	56.5	57.5	57.5	58.3	58.3	59.0
	Hungary		52.6	52.4	52.7	53.9	54.0	55.1	55.5	54.9	54.7	55.0	56.3	56.6	58.0	58.6	60.7
	Iceland		83.3	83.1	82.2	83.9	81.8	83.4	84.2	83.6	82.5	82.0	82.7	82.4	83.3	84.3	84.2
	Ireland		56.3	56.7	57.5	57.8	58.4	60.8	61.9	63.5	63.3	62.8	62.3	62.3	62.2	63.2	62.5
	Israel		62.5	62.8	62.3	63.5	64.1	64.6	65.0	65.5	65.3	66.3	66.4	66.1	67.1	67.3	68.4
	Italy		46.3	47.3	47.9	48.3	50.8	50.5	50.8	50.6	52.4	51.8	51.8	52.2	54.2	54.3	55.2
	Japan		59.6	60.1	59.7	59.9	60.2	60.8	61.3	61.9	62.2	62.9	63.2	63.0	63.4	65.0	66.0
	Korea		52.0	52.8	53.5	52.9	54.1	54.5	54.8	54.8	54.7	53.9	54.5	54.9	55.2	55.6	57.0
	Luxembourg		51.7	52.0	53.5	53.5	55.8	57.0	58.2	58.9	58.7	60.7	60.3	60.7	62.8	63.2	64.2
	Mexico		41.0	40.4	41.0	40.6	43.0	43.2	44.5	45.3	45.9	45.2	46.2	45.9	47.7	47.8	46.8
	Netherlands		65.2	65.4	66.9	66.3	67.0	68.0	68.8	70.4	71.7	72.3	72.6	73.1	74.3	74.6	73.8
	New Zealand		67.2	68.1	68.8	69.0	69.2	70.4	71.0	71.5	71.7	71.8	71.6	72.1	72.4	73.0	74.1
	Norway		76.5	76.4	76.7	75.8	75.7	75.4	74.8	75.9	77.4	76.5	75.6	75.8	75.9	76.1	75.9
	Poland		59.9	59.9	58.9	58.4	58.2	58.3	58.8	56.5	57.0	57.8	58.5	58.9	59.7	60.1	61.1
	Portugal		63.8	64.8	65.6	66.4	66.8	67.8	68.3	68.7	68.9	68.9	69.7	69.5	69.7	69.8	70.0
	Slovak Republic		63.2	63.7	63.2	63.5	62.9	61.5	60.9	60.7	61.4	60.8	61.3	60.8	61.7	62.4	62.8
	Slovenia		62.9	63.2	63.0	62.1	65.0	66.1	66.7	66.6	67.5	67.9	67.4	66.5	66.9	66.6	67.3
	Spain		52.9	51.6	54.7	56.7	58.2	59.7	61.6	62.8	64.5	66.0	67.1	68.3	69.3	69.7	69.8
	Sweden		76.4	77.1	77.1	76.8	76.6	77.7	77.7	76.8	77.0	76.4	76.2	77.4	77.9	78.8	79.3
	Switzerland		71.6	73.2	73.9	74.1	73.9	74.3	74.7	75.0	76.6	77.1	76.4	76.7	77.2	78.0	79.0
	Turkey		28.0	28.5	29.5	28.1	25.2	25.2	25.6	25.7	26.7	28.4	30.2	31.5	32.3	33.7	33.6
	United Kingdom		68.9	68.9	69.4	69.2	69.5	69.6	70.4	69.8	70.2	70.2	70.2	70.4	70.9	71.6	72.1
	United States		70.7	70.4	70.1	69.7	69.2	69.2	69.3	69.1	69.3	69.0	68.4	67.8	67.6	67.2	67.1
	OECD countries		59.1	59.2	59.4	59.5	59.9	60.3	60.7	60.9	61.4	61.6	61.8	61.8	62.3	62.6	62.8
All persons	Australia		73.8	74.1	74.1	74.5	74.4	75.4	75.8	76.2	76.5	76.4	76.4	76.6	76.4	76.4	76.3
	Austria		70.8	70.7	71.7	72.0	70.4	71.4	72.4	73.5	73.9	74.3	74.4	74.6	75.1	75.5	75.4
	Belgium		65.1	64.2	64.8	64.9	65.9	66.7	66.5	67.1	67.1	67.5	67.7	66.7	68.9	67.5	67.7
	Canada		78.2	78.3	77.4	78.2	78.1	77.7	77.7	78.3	78.4	78.0	77.8	77.8	77.8	78.0	77.8
	Chile		58.8	58.2	57.9	58.6	59.0	59.3	60.3	60.8	62.3	62.3	64.8	66.2	66.3	66.4	66.6
	Czech Republic		71.6	71.1	70.9	70.4	70.1	70.4	70.3	69.8	69.7	70.1	70.2	70.5	71.6	72.9	73.5
	Denmark		80.0	79.9	79.6	79.5	80.1	79.8	80.6	80.1	80.7	80.2	79.4	79.3	78.6	78.1	78.1
	Estonia		71.1	70.5	69.1	70.1	69.9	70.2	72.6	73.0	74.1	74.0	73.8	74.7	74.8	75.1	