



Pay Equity Public Hearings – Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne

The House of Representatives Employment and Workplace Relations Committee will be conducting public hearings in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne for its inquiry into pay equity and associated issues related to increasing female participation in the workforce.

“The Committee is looking forward to a week of hearings, and meeting with a number of prominent state and national organisations” said the Committee Chair, Ms Sharryn Jackson MP.

“Among the witnesses attending the hearings, in Brisbane the Committee will be speaking with the Queensland Industrial Relations Commissioner who recently (2007) conducted a pay equity inquiry. The Sex Discrimination Commissioner of the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) will be appearing in Sydney to address the submission that AHRC made to the inquiry. In Melbourne the Committee will be meeting with the Workforce Victoria; the National Australia Bank, and the Finance Sector Union to discuss their experiences with a major pay equity audit.”

The Committee public hearings are as follows:

- Tuesday, 31 March 2009 – Brisbane
- Wednesday, 1 April 2009 – Sydney
- Thursday 2 April & Friday 3 April – Melbourne

Public hearing programs are available from the Committee’s website.

Discussions should also cover other factors that may impact disproportionately on women’s employment options and conditions and the need for further legislative reform to address pay equity in Australia.

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