

25 February 2015

The Chair and Committee Members
Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Opening statement by the Director of the Workplace Gender Equality Agency, Helen Conway

Dear Chair and Committee Members

I apologise for being unable to appear before the Committee on 26 February 2015. As advised in previous correspondence to the Committee, I am being inducted into The Hall of Fame at the 2015 Women's Agenda Leadership Awards at a lunch in Sydney that day.

I have resigned from my position as Director of the Workplace Gender Equality Agency. My last day in the Agency is 6 March 2015. I have appeared before the Committee on a number of occasions and would like to thank the Chair and members for the support and courtesy shown to both me and the Agency.

It has been a privilege to serve as the Director of the Agency, especially at such a pivotal time in its history. I am delighted there is bipartisan support for both the Agency and ongoing gender reporting. I appreciate the constructive relationships the Agency has enjoyed with government, most particularly in recent times with Senator the Hon Eric Abetz and Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash and their staff and the Department of Employment.

The transition to the new reporting framework under the Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012 has proceeded smoothly. As a result of this reporting, Australia now has available a world-leading data set, and ongoing gender reporting under this framework will undoubtedly drive improvement in workplace gender equality. The Agency's innovative education and campaign activities are, and will continue to be, integral to this improvement.

It has been a pleasure to work with the business community where I have spent so much of my career; and, of course, the Agency's activities have been greatly enhanced by a truly committed staff and the generous support and contributions of a broad range of stakeholders.

The Agency is well positioned, driven by strong momentum and a high quality team. I look forward to seeing it continue to thrive.

Helen Conway
Director

