



GENDER
EQUITY
VICTORIA

ADVANCE EQUITY. PROMOTE HEALTH. PREVENT VIOLENCE.

MEDIA RELEASE

29 May 2018

GEN VIC funding boost to progress gender equality

Gender Equity Victoria (GEN VIC) is thrilled with today's funding announcement of \$400,000 over two years to support our work as Victoria's peak body for gender equity, women's health and the prevention of violence against women.

"According to the World Economic Forum, it will take 100 years to achieve global gender equality at the current rate of change. We simply cannot let gender inequality negatively impact on the health, wellbeing and safety of women and girls for another century.

The time is now to accelerate progress on gender equity in Victoria," said Kristine Olaris, GEN VIC Convenor.

"Our vision for a gender equal Victoria, shared by our members, is an urgent and imperative one. The investment by the Victorian government will support GEN VIC to develop the organisational infrastructure we need to continue to build an effective and sustainable peak body that can advocate, influence and collaborate to improve outcomes for women and girls in every community of Victoria," said Ms Olaris.

This funding will allow GEN VIC to facilitate collaboration and coordination across our diverse and growing membership, maintaining a state-wide reach and local focus for the vital work of advancing gender equity, promoting health and preventing violence in Victoria.

Among its roles as a peak body, GEN VIC will play an important part in implementing Victoria's first gender equality strategy, *Safe and Strong*, by providing a collective and independent voice of our members; ensuring women's voices are integral to policy, legislation, and services; and supporting coordinated and evidence-informed women's health promotion activities.

"The Victorian government has demonstrated they are willing to invest in setting up the right foundation to progress gender equity in Victoria," said Ms Olaris.

"But we know social change takes time. We want GEN VIC to be able to work with our members, partners and the government over years and decades to see this work through. While we welcome additional funds, it is imperative that we have recurrent funding to ensure that gender equality remains front-and-centre in Victoria for years to come."

-ENDS-

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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ABOUT GENDER EQUITY VICTORIA

Gender Equity Victoria (GEN VIC) the Victorian peak body for gender equity, women's health and the prevention of violence against women.

Our vision is equality, wellbeing and freedom from violence for every woman and girl in every community of Victoria.

GEN VIC's key priorities are to:

- Advance gender equity
- Promote women's sexual and reproductive health
- Prevent violence against women
- Build an influential and sustainable peak body.

www.genvic.org.au

GENDER INEQUALITY STATISTICS

- At the current rate of progress, the global gender gap will take 100 years to close. The workplace gender gap will not be closed for 217 years. <https://www.weforum.org/press/2017/11/ten-years-of-progress-on-global-gender-parity-stalls-in-2017/>
- Australia's current gender pay for full-time work is 15.3 percent. Women earn on average \$253.70 a week less than men <https://www.wgea.gov.au/sites/default/files/gender-pay-gap-statistics.pdf>
- Employees in female-dominated industries such as health care and social assistance are paid significantly less than employees in male-dominated industries <https://www.wgea.gov.au/sites/default/files/BCEC%20WGEA%20Gender%20Pay%20Equity%20Insights%202017%20Report.pdf>
- Victorian women are over-represented as part-time workers in low-paid industries and in insecure work, and continue to be underrepresented in leadership roles in the private and public sectors www.humanrights.gov.au/education/face-facts/face-facts-gender-equality-2018
- Women spend 64.4 percent of their average weekly working time on unpaid care work compared to 36.1 percent for men <http://mams.rmit.edu.au/91rjuiz8jw2t.pdf>
- Raising children accounts for a 17 percent loss in lifetime wages for women <https://www.wgea.gov.au/sites/default/files/Parental-leave-and-gender-equality.pdf>