



Australian Government

Equal Opportunity for
Women in the Workplace Agency

media release

1 June 2009

Review of the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Act announced

The Minister for the Status of Women has today announced a review of the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Act 1999 (EOWW Act) and Agency.

Acting Director of the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency (EOWA) Mairi Steele welcomes the review and said that it is both necessary and timely to ensure that the legislation is keeping pace with Australia's changing business environment.

"Despite gradual improvements, women continue to be under-represented at senior levels, are still paid less than men, face discrimination and generally do not have the same opportunities as men in the workplace. The review will examine why progress has stalled and establish whether we need a new approach", she said.

"EOWA staff have worked hard with businesses over the past 10 years to improve the lives of thousands of working women and the review is a great opportunity to look at progressive measures to ensure women don't continue to be disadvantaged", she said.

All aspects of EOWA's activities will be reviewed, including coverage of the legislation, reporting on equal opportunity programs, provision of advice and assistance to employers and the promotion of equal opportunity for women through EOWA awards recognising best practice, including the Employer of Choice for Women citation.

"I hope our reporting organisations take up the opportunity to be part of this review. However, while the review is underway, it will be 'business as usual' and organisations that are required to report to EOWA under the EOWW Act need to continue to do so."

The review will commence in June 2009 and will take a number of months to complete.

The Agency and the legislation were last reviewed in 1998.

[ENDS]

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For information about the review go to www.eowa.gov.au