



**HOLDEN**

**News**

GM Holden Corporate Affairs  
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## **HOLDEN NAMED EMPLOYER OF CHOICE FOR WOMEN** **FOR THIRD YEAR IN A ROW**

GM Holden has been awarded an "Employer of Choice for Women" citation for the third year in a row.

Announced by the Federal Government's Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency (EOWA), GM Holden is one of only 131 organisations to receive this prestigious award.

This influential citation is awarded to companies that have demonstrated that they have policies and practices that support women across the organisation which have resulted in a positive outcome for both women and the business.

GM Holden is leading the way, particularly in the manufacturing sector, by implementing a range of equal opportunity initiatives for women.

GM Holden established a Women's Council in January 2005 with a mission 'to drive Holden business performance and brand by championing the contribution of women'.

Since the introduction of the Council, GM Holden has achieved some key goals in the area of employment of women. These include:

- Since the introduction of 14 weeks paid maternity leave in 2002 and the availability of flexible work options for parents returning from parental leave, return from maternity leave rates increased from 67% to over 90%.
- In 2006, 24% of all new hires were women, up from 21% in 2005, this included 29% of all new salaried hires and 16% of all new hourly position hires.
- GM Holden's Women Council sponsored two full day "Women Driving GM Holden's Business" events in 2006. Other breakfast and lunchtime events have been organized and featured high profile guest speakers.
- Holden has been an industry partner in a leading edge two year "Dual Agenda" research project. Outcomes of this include the development of a part time work policy and data reports and obtaining perceptions of focus groups on women in the workplace.
- A lactation breaks policy was implemented in April 2005 and a lactation room was opened in Holden's new Port Melbourne head office in June 2005.
- In addition an online training module has been rolled out to salaried employees covering all aspects of diversity including discrimination, harassment and bullying.

Women's Council President and National Business Management Manager, Michelle Symons, described the citation as a very satisfying result and an achievement of which the whole company should be proud.

"This award is a fantastic achievement that gives recognition particularly to those dedicated members of GM Holden's Women's Council," Symons said.

“Holden has continued to develop working groups that look at key areas that affect women in the workplace from recruitment, mentoring, networking and even marketing to women.

“Winning this award for the third year in a row is a sign that we are not resting on our laurels and our efforts haven’t gone unnoticed.”

Media note: Michelle Symons and other senior Holden female employees from the fields of Design, Engineering, Marketing, Corporate Affairs and Information Systems are available for interview.

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