



Australian Government

Equal Opportunity for
Women in the Workplace Agency

media release

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EOWA EMPLOYER OF CHOICE FOR WOMEN

New criteria launched today

Organisations seeking an Employer of Choice for Women citation from the Federal Government's Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency (EOWA) in 2008 will need to provide paid maternity leave and part time working arrangements for senior managers as part of a set of new pre-requisites being introduced to set a strong benchmark of leading organisations.

Following significant consultation with business, organisations applying for an Employer of Choice for Women citation for 2008 will now be required to demonstrate that female managers are working part-time, the pay equity gap is less than the national average of 17%, at least 27% managers are women, sex-based harassment training is conducted regularly and a minimum of six weeks paid maternity leave is offered after 12 months service in addition to criteria that demonstrates compliance with the EOWW Act.

At an event in Parliament House, Canberra, today EOWA Director, Anna McPhee said "EOWA is committed to raising the bar, improving the workplace for women and ensuring that Employers of Choice for Women organisations can continue to differentiate themselves in the employment market. These new prerequisites will also provide all Australian organisations with a valuable benchmark against which they can measure their own progress."

"The addition of the pre-requisites addresses key areas that are recognised as barriers to women's equal opportunity and advancement within business."

"Women should be confident that organisations which are branded Employers of Choice for Women are proactively implementing policies and practices that provide equal opportunity for women," said Ms McPhee

To qualify for an EOWA Employer of Choice for Women (EOCFW) citation in 2008 organisations must demonstrate they have policies and practices that support women across the organisation and that have had positive outcomes for women and the business. Organisations must apply for the citation each year.

Since its inception in October 2001, the EOWA Employer of Choice for Women list has grown from 55 organisations to 131 organisations in 2007.

Organisations lauded as Employers of Choice by the Agency report that inclusion on the EOCFW list results in an enhanced corporate image and improved positioning in a competitive employment market.

For more information about the EOWA Employer of Choice for Women citation please go to www.eowa.gov.au.

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Background information on the 2007 EOWA Employer of Choice for Women organisations available at:

http://www.eowa.gov.au/EOWA_Employer_Of_Choice_For_Women/2007/Media_Page.asp

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