



Creating a framework for ending homelessness

MEDIA RELEASE

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Homelessness Services Welcome Historic Agreement with the Commonwealth on Pay Equity

Pay Equity will become a reality for women and all workers in community services across Australia following an historic announcement by the Prime Minister.

Today the Prime Minister Julia Gillard announced the Commonwealth had reached an agreement with the Australian Services Union to provide funding to all relevant grants and funding arrangements to ensure community agencies can deliver Pay Equity to their workers.

The announcement means there is no barrier to Fair Work Australia delivering decent pay rates for community workers when they reconvene the case in early December.

For community workers in specialist homelessness services this signifies a great development and will assist in strengthening the community services workforce. For too long high staff turnover and difficulties in attracting suitably trained people to the jobs and so this announcement will mean that here can be in the future relief for these problems.

Narelle Clay, Chairperson of Homelessness Australia, the National Peak Organisation for services in the homelessness area, was ecstatic. "This agreement means that there are no barriers to Fair Work Australia conforming decent pay for community workers. This agreement means that community services can for the first time look after their staff who perform complex and demanding jobs. It means the community will not face any service cuts. It's a win all round."

Ms Clay went on to say, "I look forward to Fair Work Australia's final determination in this case and congratulate all those involved in reaching this agreement."

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