



20th August 2019

Equal Pay Day – We can lead through greater change

BPW Australia (the Australian Federation of Business and Professional Women) is marking Equal Pay Day 2019 by calling on business leaders to get behind the data and Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) to make the workplace more equitable.

WGEA is an Australian Government statutory agency created by the Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012. The Agency is charged with promoting and improving gender equality in the Australian Workplaces.

“Gender equality and gender diversity at work is not just nice to have. Gender equity is a basic human right, but its achievement also brings socio-economic benefits to everyone. By empowering women, the broader community thrives, increasing productivity and growth,” Jacqueline Graham, BPW Australia President, said.

“The Workplace Gender Equality Agency has confirmed that the last 5 years of reporting provides overwhelming evidence that when employers analyse their data for pay gaps and take clear actions, their pay gap reduces,” Jacqueline said.

This year, (Un) Equal Pay Day 2019 will be on 28th August and marks the 50th Anniversary of landmark legislation of equal pay for equal work. The national gender pay gap released by WGEA is 14%, a decline of 0.1% in last 6 months. In 2019 there are 59 additional days from the end of the previous financial year that women must work, on average, to earn the same amount as men earned that year.

BPW Australia urges business leaders to commit their organisation to help continue the momentum of change.

The Workplace Gender Equality Agency supporters network already has over 160 Australian CEOs, Heads of Departments and Directors in public and private sectors committed to:

- playing a leadership role in their business community and to the broader public
- reinforcing their commitment to pay equity within their own organisation
- profiling and promoting their approach to pay equity



“To drive change in the community we need leadership and action to achieve a more just, more equal and more inclusive society for a strong and thriving Australia,” Jacqueline said.

To find out more , go to <https://www.wgea.gov.au/>

About BPW Australia

BPW Australia is a community of women working to end gender inequity. Our members share an interest in the issues that affect working women in Australia and around the world today. BPW's membership includes employers and employees who work across many sectors including corporate, small business, professions, trades, non-profit and government. BPW Australia is affiliated to BPW International, which has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and has expert and experienced representatives accredited to most United Nations agencies.

BPW Australia recommends actions in line with UN Global Compact Sustainable Development Goal 5: To Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls

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