

SACOSS welcomes Treasurer's commitment on Equal Pay

SACOSS welcomes Treasurer Jack Snelling's commitment today that the South Australian government will "pay its share" to meet the outcomes of the Fair Work Australia equal pay case.

On the steps of Parliament House this afternoon, Treasurer Snelling addressed the hundreds of South Australian community sector workers who turned out for the National Day of Action Equal Pay Rally.

SACOSS Senior Policy Analyst, Dr Greg Ogle, said, "On Budget Eve last year we were looking at huge cuts to vital services for vulnerable and disadvantaged people. This year, on Budget Eve, the government has made a significant step towards ensuring the sustainability of those vital services by agreeing to fund the outcomes of the pay equity case".

"We don't know the outcomes of the national pay equity case, but based on the outcomes of the Queensland pay equity case, we will be looking for the State Budget to have made provision in the region of \$35-40m next year. That is probably the upper end of estimates as it will depend on the outcomes of the case and the implementation period, but it is hard to overestimate the importance of adequately funding these services".

"This equal pay case is the most significant in nearly 40 years and is an important step to funding the sector in a sustainable way. SACOSS now renews its call on the Federal government to commit to paying for it. The programs offered by non-government groups are undertaken on behalf of community and government, and most are wholly or partly funded by government."

Dr Ogle said, "This South Australian decision is nationally significant, as it sets a precedent that we hope the other states will follow".

For further comment, contact SACOSS Senior Policy Analyst Dr Greg Ogle 0409 096 519