



# Vital Services ***Decent Pay***

The campaign to ensure government will fund the wage outcomes that may flow from the pay equity case

## ***CAMPAIGN UPDATE*** **April 2011**

### **Campaign goal**

SACOSS seeks the provision of new and full funding (for all contracts-for-services and grant funding) of any wage increases awarded by Fair Work Australia in the application for an Equal Remuneration Order for social and community service workers

### **Fair Work Australia announces a decision to further defer Modern Award wages implementation**

Hot off the Fair Work Australia website is the news that a decision has been made to defer until February 2012 implementation of “wages and related matters” for the Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award 2010. This hopefully means that implementation of the wages clauses will coincide with a decision about the pay equity decision.

[www.fwa.gov.au/index.cfm?pagename=awardsVarDoc&number=AM2011/20](http://www.fwa.gov.au/index.cfm?pagename=awardsVarDoc&number=AM2011/20)

### **New Poll results: Australians back equal pay for community sector workers**

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Vital Services  
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**SACOSS**

South Australian Council  
of Social Service

**Poll—Australians support equal pay for community sector**

On Tuesday 12 April, the final day of Fair Work Australia’s hearing of the landmark Equal Pay Case, new polling indicated Australians—and South Australians—overwhelmingly support equal pay for community sector workers.

The poll, conducted nationally, revealed that South Australians are raising the flag for community sector workers with 89% indicating these workers are underpaid and should be better rewarded for the work they do.

The challenge is now on for the South Australian government to show their commitment to full funding of equal pay for community sector workers.

All demographics indicate support for equal pay: 32% think that community service workers should be paid more and 59% think they should be paid about the same as workers doing similar jobs in other industries.

On 12 April the full bench of Fair Work Australia retired to make the landmark decision about equal pay for community sector workers. If the claim is successful, hundreds of thousands of these workers could see a pay rise of 30 per cent. Federal and state governments will be squarely faced with the decision of how to fund this pay rise, given they are largely responsible for funding the work of the sector.

**The poll asked...**

People who work in community services such as disability, aged care, family support, mental health and counselling are predominantly female and tend to be paid less than workers doing similar jobs in other industries.

*Do you think that workers in community services should be paid more, less or about the same as workers doing similar jobs in other industries?*

	Total	Vote Labor	Vote Lib/ Nat	Vote Greens	Men	Women	Aged 18-34	Aged 35-54	Aged 55+
Paid more	32%	42%	25%	43%	29%	35%	34%	33%	29%
Paid about the same	59%	52%	66%	55%	61%	56%	51%	60%	67%
Paid less	3%	2%	4%	-	4%	2%	5%	2%	3%
Don't know	6%	3%	5%	2%	6%	7%	10%	6%	2%

**State-by-state**

Total	NSW	QLD	VIC	SA	WA	OTHER	
Paid more	32%	32%	30%	36%	23%	35%	37%
Paid about the same	59%	60%	57%	55%	66%	61%	55%
Paid less	3%	2%	4%	4%	5%	1%	-
Don't know	6%	6%	9%	5%	6%	3%	7%
N=	1083	359	212	271	90	107	44

## What you can do

# 1

### Advocacy

While there have already been representations made to MPs about pay equity, it is essential that we step up our advocacy work. Individual MPs with whom you have a personal relationship are especially crucial. **The campaign outcome depends on your discussions with these MPs to confirm their position on supporting funding for the outcomes of the pay equity case.**

To ensure our advocacy work is coordinated, please inform SACOSS of any contacts made —please tell [jo@sacoss.org.au](mailto:jo@sacoss.org.au)

**SACOSS has prepared a resource kit which contains everything you'll need to know to contribute to the campaign. Get the kit from**

**[www.sacoss.org.au/campaigns.htm](http://www.sacoss.org.au/campaigns.htm)**

# 2

### Make a pledge of financial support for the campaign

With the support of its members, SACOSS is providing overall coordination of the campaign.

### Campaign Contacts

**Jo De Silva** SACOSS Senior Policy Officer [jo@sacoss.org.au](mailto:jo@sacoss.org.au)

**Heather Merran** SACOSS Policy Officer, Pay Equity Campaign [heather@sacoss.org.au](mailto:heather@sacoss.org.au)

Thanks to ACCare, Anglicare SA, Australian Refugee Association, Bedford Industries, Camden Community Centre, Carers SA, Centacare Catholic Family Services, Centacare Catholic Family Services CDPP, Community Business Bureau, Community Centres SA, Drug Arm Australasia, Health Consumers Alliance of SA, Hepatitis C Council of South Australia, Individual Supported Accommodation Service, Joyce van der Sman, Life Without Barriers SA, Lutheran Community Care, Mental Health Coalition of SA, Mental Illness Fellowship of South Australia, Multicultural Communities Council of SA, **Network SA**, Northern Suburbs Housing Co-operative, **OARS Community Transitions**, Parkinson's South Australia, Relationships Australia (SA), Safer Communities Australia, Shelter SA, SHine SA, Skill Teaching and Resources, Southern Junction Community Services, SPARK Resource Centre, **St John's Youth Services**, The Women's Housing Association, UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide, **UnitingCare Wesley Bowden**, UnitingCare Wesley Port Adelaide, Working Women's Centre SA, Youth Affairs Council of SA for their pledges of financial support for the campaign.

*\*Names in red have pledged since our last update!*