



Australian Services Union
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Media Release

for immediate release

01/10/2007

Attention: Chief of Staff / News Editor

Australian Services Union Welcomes Bold Pay Equity Recommendations

The Australian Services Union (ASU) has welcomed the release today of 17 Recommendations, "Pay Equity: A Time to Act", by Commissioner Glenys Fisher of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC).

ASU Secretary Julie Bignell commented on the bold nature of a number of the recommendations, and said "The title of the report is very apt. We must recognise that the problems we currently face will not be fixed by tinkering or by mouthing platitudes. I am very pleased to see the author has also taken this view after exhaustive research and submissions, and we are overall very supportive of the recommendations."

Earlier this year, the ASU and members from Qantas, UNITAB, SPARQ and the Australian Communications Exchange, appeared at the QIRC to give evidence in this, the second Pay Equity Inquiry for Queensland.

Julie said, "We thank those brave individuals who agreed to come forward and give evidence and we can see from the recommendations that their concerns have been listened to and taken on board."

"We are particularly pleased with the recommendations to share the workload between the Anti-Discrimination Commission and Tribunal and the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. Backlogs of complaints has meant that Queenslanders have been missing out on getting justice when they need it most, and we are hopeful that speedy attention to complaints will also mean much better and workable outcomes for all".

"The suggestion to create a new Pay Equity Commission is a logical response to complex legal problems created by the Howard Government's WorkChoices legislation, and will ensure that those who are currently disenfranchised by having been thrust into the federal system have a chance at other protections which can be provided by the Queensland government".

"On behalf of our members, we ask the Premier to make haste to implement the recommendations as soon as possible."

For comment: Julie Bignell, ASU Branch Secretary 3252 8666 or 0404 820 627

Further info: Jo-Anne Delacourt Smith, ASU Communications Officer 0420979342