

MEDIA RELEASE

Australian SACS Workers Get Their Equal Pay!

10 OCTOBER 2012

Social and Community Sector (SACS) workers will receive the pay rise they have long fought for and deserve as the Federal Government introduces legislation to ensure its \$2.8 billion contribution to equal pay is secured for the future through the introduction of the new Social and Community Pay Equity Special Account.

Under the term of the historic Fair Work Australia (FWA) equal pay ruling in February 2012, 150,000 SACS workers will now receive pay increases between 23 and 45 per cent from 1 December 2012.

This legislation would not have been possible without Queensland; when community sector workers, supported by The Services Union, after a long campaign, won pay equity in 2009 and set the benchmark for the rates of pay SACS workers across Australia should receive.

Secretary of The Services Union Kath Nelson said the Federal Government is to be congratulated for following through on their promise to value the work of all SACS workers by ensuring they are paid fair wages.

“Today’s introduction of the new Social and Community Pay Equity Special Account is the result of a long campaign and Prime Minister Gillard is to be congratulated for not only talking about equal pay for women, but acting on it,” Ms Nelson said.

“This legislation acknowledges all SACS workers nationally but also recognises that it is has a predominately female workforce who will now be covered by this order.”

“For far too long SACS workers have been earning less than the average national wage of \$58 000 for full time working adults and will mean on average and increase of \$12,000 per annum.”

“What this means for SACS workers is that they will be able to more comfortably do the things average wage earners have been able to do for years, such as pay their rent, their mortgages, their bills, buy their necessities, get loans, save for holidays and save for their futures.”

“It means SACS workers now will be paid the wage that not only recognises the tertiary qualifications that many hold, but for the work they do with the most vulnerable in our communities.”

“Our Union looks forward to working further with the Federal Government as it phases in the implementation of the pay equity order,” Ms Nelson said.

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