

This is a pivotal time for community sector workers.
It's the furthest we've ever progressed as an industry to achieve the respect workers deserve for the valuable work they do.

And now we're being threatened by the State Government that they would rather cut jobs and/or services than fully fund Equal Pay case outcomes (see Age article here: <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/baillieu-breaks-second-pay-pledge-20110321-1c3v2.html>)

The hearings for the Equal Pay case have spread the word more broadly about the low wages for the value of the work community sector workers perform compared with other like workers. We want to ensure that full funding of any Fair Work Australia decision is delivered by governments – with no cuts to services and no cuts to jobs!

So, whilst we await a decision being handed down from Fair Work later this year, as a sector we need to keep the campaign active in workplaces and networks.

This means spreading awareness across the sector, being organised and as strong as possible.

To achieve this the ASU is committed to working with members who share our vision for a strong and sustainable sector - where the value of the work is reflected in a fair & equal wage, turnover goes down and we stop losing important skilled staff. We want to change the fact that there are community workers who are eligible to access some of the services they deliver. And we want clients and communities to feel confident that they can keep consistent workers who provide them with critical services.

Want to be a part of this change?

Do something from our list of suggested steps to help create change, and be proud that you have been part of the efforts to ensure a strong community sector for all.

1. If you are reading this and are not an ASU member, we are glad to share with you the commitment we have for the community sector and its workers. Do you want equal pay? Then isn't it time you joined?

Join on-line now at: <http://www.asuvic.asn.au/1056.html>

2. **Send** an email now to tell the Victorian Government that you won't stand for them not honouring their election promise to bolster the sector and fully fund Equal Pay Case outcomes:

<http://www.asuvic.asn.au/atlobby.cgi?ID=12>

3. Community sector workers often don't put themselves first to keep supporting others, it's ok to ask for something back! **Ask** your co-workers, friends & family to send an email to Baillieu too.

4. **Forward** this email to others – in your workplaces & in your networks. Tell them why it's important to you to support campaign activities and encourage them to do at least one thing!

5. **Watch** 'Made in Dagenham' with us on Thursday May 12th! Celebrate the achievements of women in the fight for equal pay in the UK in the 60s and get some inspiration in the lead-up to June 8th National Day of Action for Equal Pay. (Thursday May 12th at 6:30pm, Cinema Nova, ASU Members - \$9.50 / Non-ASU Members \$12.00

more details here: http://www.asuvic.asn.au/made_in_dagenham.pdf

The time is now to make this change happen – it has taken years of work from hundreds of members and delegates across the sector to get us to the point we are now at.

Opportunities like the Equal Pay case do not happen more than once, it's critical that the campaign to support the case is united and everyone knows that they did what they could to get a good outcome.

Every small step and every action you and your co-workers do gets you closer to that goal of a strong sustainable sector!