



News Release

Monday 30 November 2009

2020women wants public service to lead change on women

Australian women's organisation 2020women has asked the Advisory Group on the Reform of Australian Government Administration (also known as the Moran Review, as it is led by Mr Terry Moran AO) to build a public service that takes better account of women's needs and to introduce diversity targets for public sector employment.

"Our central concern is that there has been little action in the Australian public service to move away from traditionally hierarchical ways of working, and these are no longer appropriate. As a result, the public service has failed to capture and exploit the strengths derived from diversity," said Jenni Colwill, 2020women spokesperson.

"While we welcome the opportunity to contribute to the reform of Australian government administration we are very concerned about the role of women both in the public service and in its policies and programs. We would like to see a contemporary public service that leads cultural change."

"For example, there is still a substantial difference between the classification profiles of men and women in the APS, particularly at the higher levels."

"We believe that opportunity for change exists through providing better support for women who comprise more than 57% of total APS employment. There should be more women in decision-making roles and a greater focus on increasing the number of women in those agencies with low representation of women in senior positions."

"We are also concerned that equality policies appear to have been abandoned in many instances in the misguided belief that gender mainstreaming in the public sector has already occurred, despite the fact that no strategies to support the concept of gender mainstreaming have been developed or implemented."

The 2020women submission to the Moran review seeks significant changes to the way the public service works, including the introduction of diversity targets, particularly at senior levels. The submission also calls for fair treatment and equal remuneration for women, and changes to the mechanisms that advance women's roles and representation in Australia such as moving the Office of Women back to the most influential policy making department, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, and strengthening the equal opportunities and sex discrimination legislation.

2020women is a women's organisation that aims to empower women through practical means that include sharing their stories and giving them the opportunity to voice their opinions on issues that affect them.

Media inquiries: Jenni Colwill 0411 674 404 or Vicki Buchanan 0417 334 759