

Forum Flash

Date: 8 December 2010

ASU Equal Pay Action

Letter from one of our brightest and best - Maree McDermott is one of Western Sydney's most experienced community workers



Hello valued colleagues,

Some of you will know me already as I've been around a long time, some 25yrs in the community sector working in outer Western Sydney. I'm Maree McDermott, primarily a community development worker but have filled managerial and leadership roles. During all of that time I have been a member of the ASU, your union bringing you this history making Equal Pay test case which is currently before Fairwork Australia. I have been most honoured this year to be a national Equal Pay Ambassador, to be your face in the Equal Pay case and I appeal to you today to get behind this latest planned action.

Nobody else can do it, it's now up to you to stand up for what you believe in.

Our industry, the community services industry, is very new - we are barely 30 years old so we have come a long way in such a short space of time but we now face the biggest challenge/opportunity of our work life and therefore every one of you is needed to get behind the Day of Action on the 15th December, 2010 at 12 noon at Sydney Town Hall to demand equal pay. Our industry is undervalued and underpaid. Why? - because it is a female dominated workforce and in 2010 we are still fighting issues that we thought were dealt with in the 1960's and 70's. I know it's hard to believe but **RIGHT NOW THIS IS THE FIGHT OF YOUR WORKING LIFE - YOU ARE MAKING HISTORY.** You are fighting for respect for yourselves, your colleagues, your profession and that the individuals, families and communities that you work in have the best workers that they can.

Your union has done everything it can to bring this historic pay claim to fruition on behalf of all of you, whether union members or not. We had Federal Labor fully supporting the case and last year we signed a Heads of Agreement that outlined that. The Federal Government has dishonoured their pledge by putting obstacles in the way of the case that Fairwork Australia will need to listen to. This is why we need to get **OUR FEET ON THE STREET** on the 15th December so they hear loud and clear that we have waited long enough. We are a sector of good will and we are patient people, but our patience is now at an end. Our own families need to be fed, our skill and experience needs to be fully recognised. The Equal Pay campaign had the theme "Pay up - No More Lip Service". The Federal government wants to continue to pay us lip service - 'yes we believe in equal pay but..... they then argument about why we shouldn't have it. Don't let them do it.

Come join with me and demand **NO MORE LIP SERVICE**. Get your feet on the street, get your phone ringing hot to other workers and get them out on the street, get yourself to your local interagencies and talk about it, get your employers, your clients and your families out on the street with you. This is your profession and you need to demand that equal pay be yours now. It has only been when workers have joined together in collective action that things that needed to be changed were changed. Our time is now. You are worth it! SEE YOU ON THE 15th Dec 12 noon Sydney Town Hall.

Maree McDermott, Team Leader, Nepean Community & Neighbourhood Services

Nominations now being accepted for the Greater Western Sydney ZEST Awards

The ZEST Awards were officially launched by David Borger, MP Minister for Western Sydney and Patron for the Zest Awards.

Now is the time to get your nominations in for these Community Sector Awards - closing date is **15 December 2010**. Winners will be announced at a Community event to be held at The Sebel Parramatta on 10th February 2010.



Reclaiming Multiculturalism Campaign

Western Sydney Community Forum proud to be over hundred organisations who endorsed the “Reclaim Multiculturalism” statement that calls an urgent action for multiculturalism as a national Australian policy.

The “Reclaiming Multiculturalism” campaign is the initiative of the peak national body Federation of Ethnic Communities’ Councils of Australia (FECCA) which represents people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

FECCA held a press conference in Sydney to release the names of the growing list of supporters for this campaign and launched the Campaign. FECCA’s National Multicultural Agenda proposes equal dialogue between all Australians to arrive at principles of access, equity and social justice. The national policy framework based on 11 principles including: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are the First Australians, Equality, Equal Dialogue, Right to Cultural Maintenance, and Rejection of culture blindness and support of reform where necessary. The Multicultural Agenda of FECCA that Western Sydney Community Forum supports can be accessed through this link ‘Different but Equal’

<http://www.fecca.org.au/PDF/DifferentButEqualNov2010.pdf>)



We’d like to encourage you to go through the Multicultural Agenda and contact FECCA to support the Campaign. If you have any difficulties to get in touch with FECCA please contact Semra Guler on 9687 6974 or send an e-mail to semrag@wscf.org.au

Positions Available at WSCF

WSCF are seeking skilled and enthusiastic people with a commitment to social justice principles to join a diverse team of projects for the following 2 positions.

1. Social Policy/Strategic Development Manager

The Social Policy/Strategic Development Manager will resource WSCF to take up opportunities for development in its strategic areas. The position will resource WSCF staff and the GWS sector to have input into social policy affecting Western Sydney and assist in the development of our representation and advocacy work.

WSCF offers:

- 21 hours per week (3 days) permanent, SACS(NSW) Award Grade 6 Yr 2 plus 15%.
- Above-award wages and conditions with option of salary packaging (8.62%); which brings the position package to equivalent to \$76,445 per annum pro rata.
- Flexible hours; Family- friendly work environment
- Applications close 5pm Monday 10th January 2011 Interviews held on 17th January 2011

[Download an information package](#), containing job description and selection criteria on 02 9687 9669 or Email: wscf@wscf.org.au. NB: Applications must address the selection criteria to be considered.

2. Sector Facilitator Homelessness

(Metro South West Sydney) Re-advertised Position

The Sector Facilitator- Homelessness Metro South West Region (MSW) will work with MSW SAAP services and non SAAP services to collaboratively plan and inform the sector of priorities and opportunities in the National Affordable Housing Agreement and the National Homelessness Action Plan. The position will support MSW services to develop partnerships in setting directions for addressing and reducing homelessness.

WSCF offers:

- \$35.00 per hour - 28-35 hrs per week negotiable / Contract to end December 2012
- Above-award wages and conditions with option of salary packaging (8.62%); which brings the position package to equivalent to \$75,600 per annum pro rata.
- Flexible hours; Family- friendly work environment
- Applications close 5pm Friday 7th January 2011 Interviews held on 13th January 2011

Download an information package, <http://www.wscf.org.au> containing job description and selection criteria on 02 9687 9669 or Email: wscf@wscf.org.au. NB: Applications must address the selection criteria to be considered.

Introducing our Student on Placement



My name is Tom Nance and I am in my final year of the Social Work (Honours) degree at the University of Western Sydney. I am currently on my final placement at the Western Sydney Community Forum and have been part of the organisation since September.

While I am involved in the ZEST Community Sector Awards working party and the Stronger Voice for Western Sydney initiative my primary role during this placement has been to undertake research for the Western Sydney Community Forum in regards to its membership. As part of my research project I will be contacting agencies for feedback regarding WSCF's role as a peak body, and what organisations envisage the future directions of WSCF could be. This feedback will then be utilised to form recommendations included in my membership report.

I look forward to hearing from community agencies in Western Sydney and invite anyone who is interested in providing feedback to email me (tomn@wscf.org.au) or contact me on 0401 181 204.

Joke Spot

Definition of an elephant: A mouse built to government specifications.

For a full copy of the WSCF HACC Flash

[Click link to HACC Flash in Flash file](#)

A Stronger Voice for Western Sydney Facebook Page: <http://www.ngo.net.au/strongervoice>