

Australia: Progress report on commitments made at the Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (September 2015)
Report submitted to UN Women on 24 February 2017

Australia is pleased to provide a report on its progress on the commitments made at the Global Leaders Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in September 2015.

The Third Action Plan of the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022* was launched in October 2016 and focuses on prevention and early intervention; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their children; greater support and choice; sexual violence; responding to children living with violence; and keeping perpetrators accountable. In September 2015, the Prime Minister announced a Women's Safety Package (AUD100 million) which provides practical and immediate action to keep women and their children safe; improved training for frontline workers; innovative and integrated services delivery in critical areas; and educational resources to parents, teachers and children to positively influence the attitudes of young people. The *Stop It At The Start* (AUD30 million) national prevention campaign was launched in April 2016 and aims to generate long-term cultural change.

The Australian Government supports Australian women to participate in the workforce by investing in childcare and early learning. Through an investment of AUD13 million over five years under the National Innovation and Science Agenda, the Government is providing women with the skills and support they need to work in growth industries by getting more women into science, technology, engineering and maths. It is also investing AUD31.2 million in internships and post-school career advice to increase support for women to study and work in STEM. To close the gender gap in retirement income and savings, the Australian Government is implementing reforms assist women earning low incomes to accumulate more superannuation.

Internationally, Australia's Gender Equality Fund supports high-performing innovative aid investments, contributing to better quality jobs, improved access to financial services and markets, and the dismantling of institutional barriers to women's workforce participation and in trade. It includes the ILO/IFC Better Work program to improve women's working conditions in the garment industry in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia and Vietnam, and the South Asia Regional Trade Facilitation Program. The Fund also supports the four-year AUD46 million Investing in Women initiative which is improving women's economic participation, voice and leadership, and influencing the private and public sector to promote women's economic empowerment in the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam and Myanmar. Australia also partners with Women's World Banking to increase financial inclusion of low-income women in Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia and the Philippines.

Gender equality and women's empowerment remain a priority and central to Australia's efforts to progress the 2030 Agenda and we remain steadfastly committed to the full realisation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.