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## A•S•U MEDIA RELEASE

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Australian Services Union Victorian Authorities & Services Branch [www.asuvic.asn.au](http://www.asuvic.asn.au)  
116 Queensberry St Carlton South VIC 3053 phone: (03) 9342 3400 email: [services@asuvic.com](mailto:services@asuvic.com)

**Thursday 10th June, 2010**

### **Biggest Day of Action since the Seventies on Equal Pay**

#### **Media Opportunity: Equal Pay Day Rally**

**Who: ASU Assistant Secretary Lisa Darmanin; Mother Erin Harris, with twins Clancy & Hamish (aged 3 yrs)**

**Where: Federation Square rally and walk to parliament**

**When: 11am Thursday June 10**

Thousands of equal pay supporters will rally in Federation Square, along with tens of thousands of others in capital cities across Australia.

The Equal Pay Day of Action will be the biggest action since the 1970s on the issue of equal pay where a shocking divide of inequity still remains. Women in full time paid work earn 18 per cent less on average than men, which equates to \$1 million less over a lifetime.

The Australian Services Union's test case with Fair Work Australia will address lower pay among community sector workers, who are the professionals that all Australians rely on in times of individual or community crisis.

The ASU Assistant Branch Secretary, Lisa Darmanin said women who work in this sector are often engaged at the frontline of crisis, trauma and community care.

"Issues like family and domestic violence, child abuse and homelessness are all in a day's work for these women and yet they are paid 37 per cent less than those doing the same job in the public service and hospitals.

"These workers are crucial to the health of our communities, and yet they are paid so poorly that they are often eligible for the very welfare benefits their clients receive.

"It is a disgrace that our politicians don't recognise the workers in these services better by supporting the push for equal pay in the social and community care sector.

"Our test case with Fair Work is an important first step in the push for Equal Pay. It is a disgrace that the gender of a child can make \$1 million worth of difference over a lifetime," said Ms Darmanin.

Mother Erin Harris will be available for interview at the rally with her young twins Clancy and Hamish.

"My twin children have grown up in the same home, have had the same opportunities in their early lives; and yet until we get equal pay in Australia, it is likely that my boy will be \$1 million better off at the end of his life than my daughter.

"There is no reason for the divide to be so wide. We must keep up the fight for equal pay," said Ms Harris.

#### **For further information:**

Lisa Darmanin Assistant Branch Secretary, ASU Mobile 0407 308 503. Media: Anaya Latter 0432 121 636.