



---

## A•S•U MEDIA RELEASE

---

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)

Tuesday August 10, 2010

### Labor MPs asked to sign pledge for important funds for community sector organisations and workers

**Media Opportunity:** MPs to sign pledge of support for pay equity case at Fair Work Australia and funds needed to deliver pay equity

**Who:** The Minister for Community Services, Jenny Macklin, the Federal Labor Candidate for Melbourne, Cath Bowtell, ASU Assistant Secretary Lisa Darmanin, ASU delegate Danielle Clark, Melbourne City Mission CEO Ric Holland

**Where:** Melbourne City Mission, 19 King St, Melbourne

**When:** 12pm (AEST) Tuesday, August 10

The Australian Services Union has applauded the Minister for Community Services Jenny Macklin and the Federal Labor Candidate for Melbourne Cath Bowtell after they promised to work with their party to ensure that organisations have the funds they need to meet the costs of equal pay without the need to cut services in the social and community sector.

ASU Assistant Secretary Lisa Darmanin says the Labor government's commitment to the pay equity campaign - after an expectation to sign a pledge of support for the pay equity case currently at Fair Work Australia today - is a great step forward for the thousands of social and community services (SACS) workers currently employed by not-for-profit agencies.

"SACS workers across Australia are often at the front line of crisis, trauma and community care. Issues like family and domestic violence, child abuse and homelessness are all in a day's work for the thousands of workers who have - for too long - been undervalued and underpaid."

"Support from the Federal government for our equal pay case has been critical and the ASU members we represent are urging funding bodies - including the Federal government - to commit to finding the necessary funds for equal pay for workers who do this important work."

"The alternative is that services will need to cut staff in order to increase workers' wages, which would lead to a decrease in services. This is part of a nation-wide request of the two major parties regarding their position about equal pay, so that our members can ultimately consider this issue when they vote."

ASU delegate and SACS worker Danielle Clark says a positive outcome regarding the pay equity case at Fair Work Australia is important for not only her, but for those who'll work in the sector for generations to come.

"Pay equity for the community sector is important to me because I have a young daughter and I want her to have the option of being able to work in the community sector that I love so much without having to sacrifice her financial security."

**For further information:**

Lisa Darmanin, Assistant Branch Secretary, ASU. Mobile 0407 308 503, Media: George Farrugia 0418 883 843

**Authorised and printed by:**  
Brian Parkinson, Secretary, Australian Services Union  
Victorian Authorities & Services Branch  
116 Queensberry Street  
Carlton South, Victoria, 3053, Australia  
[www.asuvic.asn.au](http://www.asuvic.asn.au)