

Media Release

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Relationships Australia Commends Prime Minister's Stance on Pay Equity

Relationships Australia commends the Prime Minister, Julia Gillard's announcement that the Federal Government will fund its share of the outcome of the ASU's Equal Pay for Equal Work case before Fair Work Australia.

"As a leading community and family support organisation employing around 2,000 staff nationally, Relationships Australia is delighted that community sector workers will be properly rewarded for the challenging work they do every day," Relationships Australia National Executive Officer, Alison Brook said.

"Relationships Australia provides services to some of the most disadvantaged in the community including people living in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, refugees, those suffering from family violence, substance abuse and other addictions, poor mental health, generational injustice, people who are socially excluded, and those affected by isolation in remote and rural areas of the country," Ms Brook said.

"Highly skilled staff working in complex environments deserve to be fairly paid," Ms Brook said. "It's an important step on the road to closing the long-standing pay gap between the community and other sectors, delivering fairness to community sector employees, most of whom are, and have traditionally been, women."

The Prime Minister Julia Gillard today announced the Government was prepared to provide over \$2 billion to deliver the historic pay rise to 150,000 of Australia's lowest paid workers in the social and community services sector. The Government will put a joint submission on equal pay with the Australian Services Union to the independent umpire, Fair Work Australia.

With Fair Work Australia's approval, the increases would be phased in over six years, starting on 1 December 2012. This will allow community sector organisations delivering Commonwealth-funded programs to pay the new rates, without reducing services to the community. Relationships Australia programs and services are part-funded by both Federal, State and Territory governments.

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About Relationships Australia

Relationships Australia is a leading provider of relationship support services for individuals, families and communities. Relationships Australia is a community-based, not-for-profit Australian organisation with no religious affiliations. Services include counselling for individuals, couples and families (face-to-face, telephone and online); parenting and relationship education; mediation and support for families going through separation; specialist services for people who have been in out of home care, refugee families and Aboriginal communities; workplace counselling and training; employee assistance programs and consultancy for companies; and training for family support professionals. To find out more contact Relationships Australia at **1300 364 277** or visit: www.relationships.org.au.

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