



Australian Gender Equality Council
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Australian Federal Election 2022 AGEC Women's Scorecard



National Strategy on Gender Equality



Free Universal Childcare



Women's Economic Security



Safety & Respect for Women



Women's Representation & Leadership



Authorised by C. Ross, Australian Gender Equality Council, 79 President Circuit Karalee Qld 4306

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Party Highlights for each of AGECE's Key Priorities



National Strategy on Gender Equality



- No platform to create National Gender Equality Strategy proposed.
- Women's Budget Statement re-introduced
- Elements of National Strategy purpose included in current policies



- No platform to create National Gender Equality Strategy proposed.
- No party policy stance beyond Coalition Budget initiatives.



- Speech committing to develop National Strategy on Gender Equality but no details and not in election policy platform.
- Fair Work reforms to eliminate gender bias in wage decisions



- Explicit policy commitment to a National Gender Equality Strategy with focus areas.
- Women's Budget Statement and analysis of gendered impacts of policy decisions.



- No published policy on the need for a National Gender Equality Strategy



- No published policy on the need for a National Gender Equality Strategy

Free Universal Childcare



- \$1.7B over 4 years for 30% increase on childcare subsidy >1 child.
- Budget changes to paid parental leave with flexibility for 20 weeks for either carer will entrench women as primary carers.
- No super on paid parental leave.



- No stated current party policy stance on gender equality beyond Coalition Budget initiatives.



- \$5.4B over 4 years for 90% maximum childcare subsidy rate for 1st child, with long term goal of universal 90% subsidy
- Enhancements include after school care
- Increase family income threshold.
- No super on paid parental leave.



- \$19B over 4 years for free universal childcare
- Remove income & activity tests, with 100 hours a fortnight of fully subsidised care.
- Funding for community and NFP centres to expand capacity.
- \$24.5B for paid parental leave of 26 weeks with each parent to take 6 weeks (use it or lose it)



- No published policies on universal childcare or paid parental leave



- No published policies on universal childcare or paid parental leave



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Party Highlights for each of AGECE's Key Priorities



Women's Economic Security



- No super on paid parental leave
- National Cabinet commitment to public sector reporting to WGEA
- Marginal paid parental leave enhancements in 2022-23 Budget
- No other published policies on women's economic security



- No super on paid parental leave
- National Cabinet commitment to public sector reporting to WGEA
- \$47M to boost women's workforce participation, in non-traditional trade apprenticeships.
- Marginal paid parental leave enhancements in 2022-23 Budget



- Prohibit pay secrecy clauses
- Public reporting of gender pay gap
- Public sector gender pay gap actions
- Fair Work Act reforms on gender pay equity and pay increases in low pay female workforces
- Committed to a Women's Economic Security Taskforce.



- Super on paid parental leave.
- Gender action plans for public sector & reporting outcomes
- Fair Work Act reforms on gender pay equity and pay increases in low pay female workforces
- Supporting female led businesses through low interest loans
- Increased pay data transparency and penalties for failure to close the pay gap



- No published policies on women's economic security
- Age pension and HECs debt policies may benefit women's economic security.



- No published policies on women's economic security



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Party Highlights for each of AGECE's Key Priorities



Safety & Respect for Women



- 43 of 55 Respect@Work recommendations implemented
- Draft National Plan to end Violence against Women & Children lacks targets and funding commitments
- New National Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner; expanded e Safety Commissioner role
- Separate 1st Nations Women's Safety plan
- 5 days for unpaid domestic violence leave



- As Coalition member supports Respect@Work program and draft National Plan, and other budget measures
- \$138M for survivors of domestic & family violence
- Establish more women's trauma recovery centres
- 5 days for unpaid domestic violence leave



- Adopt all 55 Respect@Work recommendations
- Separate First Nations Women's Safety Plan
- Establish a Family, Domestic & Sexual Violence Commissioner, 500 new community sector workers to support women in crisis & \$1.6B to social housing for women feeling domestic violence
- Harmonise state laws on consent and sexual assault and \$77M consent and respect education
- 10 days paid family and domestic violence leave



- Adopt all 55 Respect@Work recommendations
- Separate First Nations Women's Safety Plan
- \$12B over 12 years for National Plan to end Violence against Women & Children
- 10 days paid family and domestic violence leave & \$10,000 survivor grants
- \$477M to Our Watch Respectful relationships programs & national disclosure trial on partner violence history



- No published policies on women's safety
- One Nation Candidate, Ross Taylor, endorsed the Fair Agenda Pledge for a safer future



- No published policies on women's safety
- Policies on reproductive rights and family law may negatively impact women.



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Party Highlights for each of AGECE's Key Priorities



Women's Representation & Leadership



- Non-binding 50% by 2025 target for women's representation but limited progress
- 8/56 election candidates with an estimated winnable seats.
- WGEA reporting extended to public sector.



- No stated targets or aspiration for equal representation in government or cabinet despite history Nationals Women's Federal Council
- \$47M to boost women's workforce participation, including non-traditional trade apprenticeships.



- Long history of effective quotas, with current quota of 50% by 2025.
- Estimated majority women candidates running in marginal seats.
- WGEA reporting extended to public sector.
- Fair Work reforms to boost pay in female dominated industries.



- 50% representation target.
- Greens Party 60% women
- Adopt all Set the Standard Report recommendations
- WGEA reporting extended to public sector
- Penalties for employers who fail to close the gender pay gap



- No published policies on women's representation & leadership



- No published policies on women's representation & leadership



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Overall Assessment of Party's Gender Equality Strategy & Scores Against AGEC's Key Priorities



Despite claiming to have done more for women than any other government, the Liberal Party's election platform presents little that is new and fails to make inroads into the major barriers to equality reflected in AGEC's Priorities, such as free universal childcare, paid parental leave, the pay gap, women's representation in leadership and most importantly a National Strategy on Gender Equality. Despite elevating women's issues in the FY22 Budget, the Election campaign is devoid of material change, and instead focusses on niche funding commitments to secure votes. Of the 17 plans forming the Liberal Party's election platform, only one, Accessible & Affordable Childcare, responds to AGEC's Priorities largely restating existing commitments.

<https://www.liberal.org.au/our-policies>



The Nationals have Accessible and Affordable Childcare as one of 16 headlines election policies, reflecting current Coalition policy on childcare costs relief in the FY22-23 Budget. The Nationals scores primarily reflect existing Coalition policies with no new gender equality initiatives announced for the Election. The National Party's website celebrates the long-standing influence of women through the Women's Federal Council (est. 1959) and as the first to recognise domestic violence as a key policy issue. Despite this legacy, the National Party's election platform provides little in terms of change for women and scores poorly against AGEC's Key Priorities. <https://nationals.org.au/election-2022/>



Labor demonstrates a longstanding commitment to issues affecting women and gender equality, distinguished by the success of quotas in the party room, which over time have contributed to increased representation of women in parliament. Other distinguishing policies include Fair Work reforms to address low pay rates in female dominated industries, a tougher stance on pay gap disclosure in WGEA powers, and bigger funding commitment towards universal childcare. Despite not addressing all AGEC Priorities, and being more measured in others, like universal childcare, the ALP's track record of achievement adds to their scores. <https://www.alp.org.au/policies/closing-the-gender-pay-gap>; <https://www.alp.org.au/policies/womens-safety-at-work>



The Greens have a comprehensive policy statement on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, with detailed principles and aims, and an election platform containing many elements of the AGEC Key Priorities. With a Party room that is 60% women and a commitment to parity in the Party Room, the Greens distinguish themselves as the only party to explicitly commit to developing a National Gender Equality Strategy, implementation of all Set the Standard recommendations, super on paid parental leave and the strongest commitment to free universal childcare. <https://greens.org.au/policies/gender-equality-and-empowerment-women-and-girls>; <https://greens.org.au/platform/end-sexism>



There is nothing on One Nation's website and published policies that purports to address issues relating to gender equality including the key priorities identified by AGEC. One Nation's policies on women's reproductive rights ("Pro Life"), family law and child support and education have the potential to have a negative impact on the future of women's rights and gender equality. However, there is insufficient information to determine the extent of negative impact. One Nation's silence on issues of gender equality resulted in a "Nil" score on AGEC's Election Scorecard. <https://www.onenation.org.au/issues>



There is nothing on UAP's website and published policies that purports to address issues relating to gender equality including the key priorities identified by AGEC. UAP's policies are issue specific, including an increase in the Age Pension and abolishing all HECS debts, which have the potential to provide increased economic security for women. However, UAP's silence on issues of gender equality resulted in a "Nil" score on AGEC's Election Scorecard. https://www.unitedaustraliaparty.org.au/national_policy/



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