

THE CHANGE IN THE STATUS OF WOMEN IMPACT on AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY.

WEL web: www.welvic.org.au

EDUCATION > Universal Literacy

THE VOTE > Social & Equity Laws—baby bonus, child care, Maternity leave

CONTRACEPTIVE PILL > Fertility Control

EQUAL PAY > Independence for men as well as women. Male unionists could strike while their women worked.

TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE

Communication:-

Letter writing > Phones > Duplicating machines > email & mobile phones.

Transport: horse & buggy > public transport > car

Household Drudgery > Washing machines etc

Changes to Male Bastions of Power and Privilege after 100 years

The Church: Anglican priests, Uniting Church moderators etc
RC nuns changing habits.

The Law: High Court judge, many female judges and magistrates.

The Army: Army, Naval and Airforce where brawn is replaced by brain.

Problems of sexual harassment.

Government: 25% Federal MPs, 37% Senators

3 Cabinet Ministers (Vanstone, Bishop, Coonan) +
Bailey & Stone

3 Parliamentary Secretaries

30% Vic State Govt. 7 Ministers,

1 Premier NT; formerly in Vic., WA

27.6% Local Government.

Governors, NSW (SA, Qld)

International: Helen Clark, Corazon Aquino, President of Finland ,
(Golda Meir, Indira Gandhi, Margaret Thatcher, Mrs Bandaranaike and her daughter,)

Education: 6 Vice Chancellors 15 Deputy VCs
2 Chancellors formerly 3 Chancellors
20% Professors and senior academics,
50% female students.

Control of Money & Property
No male sponsor required.
Family Law Act

Methods to Change and Improve the Status of Women

Women's Organisations Temperance unions in 1800's,
Suffragette groups

National Council of Women, League of Women Voters Vic
AFUW, YWCA, NCJWA, UAW, WEL, NFAW, Ethnic and

Aboriginal groups

Male unions frightened that lower paid women may take their jobs.

Legislation: Politicians have had to take note of what women want. eg:-

1928 Mothers guardians of their children. 2006 Baby bonus,
Child Care

1972 Equal Pay in Commonwealth Public Service

1975- 1984 Anti-discrimination laws

2006 Removal of Provocation as an excuse for murder.

2006 Vic Human Rights Charter

2006 High Court decision on compensation for trauma victims

International initiatives

UN Decade for Women 1976-1985

Mid Decade Conferences 1980

Action Plan for Women

International Women's Day started in 1909—gained momentum in the 1970's

Mentors in Business and Education—Writers and song writers

The Media Newsreaders and commentators- Positive images

CHALLENGES facing WOMEN in the 21st Century *The Male Backlash*

The Vote; Attempts to stop Compulsory Voting—major importance for women SA Senator Nick Minchin floats this.

Fertility Control : Attempts by the fanatical religious to stop women's Right to Choose to have an Abortion; Vic Crimes Act.

Child Care Initiatives

Family debt means a majority of mothers must work.

Indeed the Government wants them to work BUT is failing to provide adequate quality child care at a reasonable cost and in localities which suit them.

This is a challenge for Governments as well as parents

Domestic Violence: Women's Legal Rights as well as Responsibilities

Discrimination: Systemic: University costs, Glass Ceiling in Company Boards

Equal Pay The Gender Gap: WorkChoices Act has major impacts for women because women have very limited negotiating power (children etc).

Women's Organisations -- NGOs (Non Government Organisations)

NGOs are so powerful that the Government has reduced funding to groups except those who claim charity status but only if they are not advocates.