

CALENDAR OF ACTION INTRODUCING EQUALITY IN AUSTRALIA

Amendments to maintenance, marriage, pensions and labour laws not noted.

See also "Taking Time at

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~wmnstime/1940to1969.htm>

WEL web: www.welvic.otg.au

1816 Female convicts entitled to wages.

1840 NSW Deserted Wives and Children—maintenance provisions

1845 Master Servant Act

1850 Child Labour Laws (England) restricted labour under 13 years. Fertility decreased as children became an economic burden. Infant mortality did not drop until 1900's.

1873 Victorian Factories Act regulated employment for women and girls

1879 Married Women's Property Act NSW—other states 1890-97.

1880 University of Melbourne; Univ Sydney 1881

1882 Unions legally recognised

1893 Victorian Tailoress' Union Strike
Western Australian women lawyers allowed to practice

1894 South Australia Suffrage for women

1895 Vic Factories Act set minimum wage for juveniles.

1896 NSW Children's Relief Act—first government involvement in family welfare.

1899 Western Australia Suffrage

1900 WA Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act—first work place legislation

1900-1 Old Age Pensions Acts—NSW; Vic

1901 AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION

1902 Australian Suffrage

- 1907 Harvester Case decision by Higgins established family wage.
- 1908 Commonwealth Old Age Pensions
- 1908 Victorian Female Suffrage
- 1912 Maternity Allowance
Mildura Dried Fruit decision awarded equal pay to women doing exactly the same work as men.
- 1916 Wage Equality Act, Queensland.
- 1917 Higgins established Minimum Wage for Women at 50% male rate.
- 1919 Insanity: Grounds for Divorce
- 1920 WA Right to stand for Parliament—other states 1920-26
- 1923 Queensland women permitted to register for Jury Duty
- 1927 44 Hour week
- 1928 Victorian Marriage Act amended to allow mothers equal guardianship rights
NSW Guardianship of Infants Act amended 1934
- 1930-32 Arbitration Court reduced female wages.
- 1935 Muriel Heagney founded Equal Status Committee in Victoria to fight for equal pay.
Tasmanian Women lawyers permitted to practice.
- 1939-45 WORLD WAR 2
- 1941 Child Endowment (Commonwealth)
- 1942 Women's Employment Board (WEB) formed to fix wages, hours and conditions.
- 1943 WEB Awards : 100% to tram conductoresses, shop assistants
90% to postwomen
85% to rubber and metal
80% to wool classing
75% to textile workers

- 1947 40 Hour week
- 1949 High Court reduced women's wages to 75%
- 1958 Industrial Arbitration (Female Rates) Amendment Act—equal pay for equal work phased in by 1963—Women teachers gained.
- 1959 Divorce Laws uniform for all States.
- 1960 CONTRACEPTIVE PILL AVAILABLE
- 1964 Victorian women permitted to register for Jury Duty
- 1966 Equal Pay Tasmanian Public Servants
- 1967 Referendum Equality for Aboriginal people
Equal Pay SA Public Servants
- 1968 Victorian women -- equal liability in Tort
WA and Queensland Equal Pay for Public Servants
- 1969 Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission (AC&CC) granted Equal Pay for Equal work
SA amended Criminal Law Consolidation Act to permit abortion in some cases
Vic—Menhennit ruling permits abortion in some cases
- 1972 AC&AC granted equal pay for work of equal value
Child Care Act -- Commonwealth augmented State services for day care centres
- 1973 Australia ratified ILO Convention 111- Discrimination in Employment and Occupation. Commonwealth set up Employment Discrimination Committees to implement the decision
Maternity Leave for Aus Public Servants—52 weeks including 12 weeks paid.
Supporting Mothers Benefit for female one-parent families
- Victoria allows women to enter decision-making levels of the Public Service.
- 1974 Adult minimum wage for females.
Victoria –Maternity Leave for Public Servants

- 1975 South Australian Anti-Discrimination Act
 Equal Employment Opportunity section established in the Aus Public Service
 Victoria—Women Jurors equal status
 Family Law Act
- 1976 Vic Probate Act amended to remove duty on property willed to spouse
 Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme—equal provisions
 Commissioner for Equal Opportunity appointed in SA
 SA amended Criminal Law Consolidation Act to make illegal rape within marriage .
 Family Allowances introduced.
- 1977 NSW Anti-Discrimination Act
 Victorian Equal Opportunity Act
 ACTU adopted Working Womens Charter
 Equal Opportunity Boards established in NSW and Victoria
 Victorian Commissioner for EO; NSW Counsellor for EO
 Supporting Parents Benefits gives rights to fathers.
- 1978 AC&CA makes discrimination an industrial issue in the Rockhampton Case and varies the Municipal Officers (Qld) Consolidated Award to include an anti-discrimination clause to prevent termination of employment on marriage of a female
 SA—Permanent part time work for Public Servants
- 1979 Unpaid Maternity Leave (ACTU case) granted to women working under Federal awards—later extended to State Awards in WA, NSW and Vic.
 Deborah Wardley v. ANSETT case determined by the High Court that Ansett discriminated by not employing Wardley as a pilot
- 1980 UN Convention for Elimination of Discrimination against Women—signed at Copenhagen—ratified in 1983
- 1981 Australia—Human Rights Commission Act
- 1984 Sex Discrimination Act
 Equal Employment Opportunity section Public Service Board Canberra worked with every Department to set up Plans with achievable targets for Women, Aborigines, Migrants and People with Disabilities.
- 2005 WorkChoices Act --Back to the days of 1845 ?

2006 Vic Govt removes Provocation as an excuse for murder.

2006 Vic Govt introduces Human Rights charter