

YWCA of Adelaide submission for the 2010 Review of South Australia's State Strategic Plan

YWCA of Adelaide is a South Australian State Strategic Plan Alliance Member and welcomes this opportunity to participate in the 2010 Review.

YWCA of Adelaide is a not for profit community organisation which is the leading voice for young women in South Australia providing advocacy, support, empowerment and leadership opportunities for young women under 30 through services, programs and campaigns.

Our policy priorities, as informed through consultation with young women are violence against women and girls, self image, and gender role stereotypes.

YWCA of Adelaide highly recommends that these current Targets remain in the Plan:

T2.2 Healthy weight: increase the proportion of South Australians 18 and over with healthy weight by 10 percentage points by 2014.

T2.12 Work-life balance: improve the quality of life of all South Australians through maintenance of a healthy work-life balance.

T5.1 Boards and committees: increase the number of women on all State Government boards and committees to 50% on average by 2008, and maintain thereafter by ensuring that 50% of women are appointed, on average, each quarter.

T5.2 Chairs of boards and committees: increase the number of women chairing state government boards and committees to 50% by 2010.

T5.3 Members of Parliament: increase the number of women in Parliament to 50% by 2014.

YWCA of Adelaide highly recommends that these new Targets are considered for inclusion in the updated Plan.

Objective 1 Growing Prosperity

Economic environment

YWCA of Adelaide recommends the State Strategic Plan add a target under Economic Environment of:
By 2020 be the first Australian state to have closed the gender pay gap.ⁱ

Objective 2

Improving wellbeing

Preventative health

YWCA of Adelaide recommends the State Strategic Plan add a target under Preventative health of:
By 2020 reduce by more than 50 per cent the 2010 rates of sexually based advertising and images appearing in South Australian media and South Australian public spaces.ⁱⁱ

Objective 2

Improving wellbeing

Public safety

YWCA of Adelaide recommends the State Strategic Plan add a target under Public Safety of:

By 2020, more than halve the 2010 rates of rape, sexual assault, and domestic violence deaths and more than double the 2010 reporting, prosecution and conviction rates for rape, sexual assault, and domestic violence.ⁱⁱⁱ

ⁱ The South Australian gender pay gap at August 2010 was 14.3%, according to the ABS SA Stats August report; lower than the national gender pay gap which moved from 18% in February 2010 to 17.3% in May 2010. 'A NATSEM report released in March 2010 shows that simply being a woman accounts for 60 per cent of the difference between men's and women's earnings. The gap impacts negatively on women's labour force participation; that is women earning less than men acts as a disincentive for women to enter paid work or to work more hours. It is estimated that a 17% pay gap between men and women workers costs the Australian economy \$93 billion each year. This equates to 8.5% of GDP. A recent KPMG report shows that indirect costs to the Australian economy of the gender pay gap include potentially higher unemployment and underemployment - meaning women have less ability to accumulate adequate superannuation and are more likely to require government care. Women are two and a half times more likely to live in poverty in their old age than men - by 2019, on average, women will have half the amount of superannuation that men have.' Source: 2010 Equal Pay Day Fact Sheet, Australian Government Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency

ⁱⁱ In Australia and internationally experts in children's health and welfare agree that premature sexualisation places children at risk of a variety of harms, including disruption to healthy physical and psychological development. The 2007 American Psychological Association's 'Task force on the sexualisation of girls' has reported that "ample evidence indicates that sexualisation has negative effects in a variety of domains, including cognitive functioning, physical and mental health, sexuality, and attitudes and beliefs". The research indicates that viewing material that is sexually objectifying is a contributing factor for body dissatisfaction, eating disorders, low self-esteem and depressive effect as well as physical health problems in high school aged girls and in young women.

ⁱⁱⁱ In South Australia a female reports to Police that she has been raped every fourteen hours. It is estimated only one in five report. A male reports to Police that he has been raped every five days. Source: Crime and Justice in South Australia 2006. In South Australia, the domestic violence death and serious injury toll from July 2008 to March 2010 is: 11 dead women, two dead children, four dead men, one stabbed woman and one stabbed baby. The dead and injured women and children were killed and injured by men. Three of the dead men killed themselves and the other was shot dead by Police. Source: South Australian Domestic Violence Death Review Coalition 2010.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this Review. If you would like to discuss these recommendations please contact 8203 9400.

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