



Improving the lives of Australian women



Australia's girls and women deserve an equal stake in our society and our economy.

That is why the 2019-20 Budget is continuing to deliver practical measures to boost women's safety and health outcomes, give them greater choice in their lives, build financial security for themselves and their families, and grow our economy.

Since the 2018-19 Budget, Australian women have continued to see improvements in key economic measures.

A record high of more than six million women are now employed, and more women are in full-time work than ever before. The gender pay gap has reached a new record low of 14.2 per cent, down from 17.2 per cent in 2013. Women's workforce participation has risen to record highs, and currently sits at 60.6 per cent.

But with women still earning less than men, working part-time at over twice the rate of men, and more likely to experience family and domestic violence, there is still much more to do.

That is why the 2019-20 Budget includes a range of initiatives focused on women's:

- safety and security
- financial security and workforce participation
- health and wellbeing.

Our Government's first priority is to keep Australians safe. That's why we are making the single largest ever Commonwealth investment in the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children*, with funding of \$328 million invested in initiatives to address domestic and family violence. It brings our investment in women and children's safety to more than \$840 million since 2013.

We also know that financial security, resilience and empowerment give women real choices in their lives.

The 2019-20 Budget also furthers our practical measures to help women keep more of what they earn, access work and be prepared for the jobs of the future in fields like STEM.

We also want to see even healthier Australian women. This Budget again delivers record health funding delivering critical investments in women's health and wellbeing. Key measures include expanding the Medicare Benefits Schedule to cover even more women's health needs and prioritising perinatal mental health.

The Coalition Government is focused on women's prosperity, safety and wellbeing, and the 2019-20 Budget continues our Government's delivery on these important areas.

We know that when women do well, their families do well, and our economy and nation prospers.

The Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP

Minister for Women
Minister for Jobs and Industrial Relations