



Catholic Social Services
Australia

Telephone 02 6285 1366
Facsimile 02 6285 2399

PO Box 326
Curtin ACT 2605
22 Theodore Street
Curtin ACT 2605
admin@catholicsocialservices.org.au
www.catholicsocialservices.org.au
ABN 18 810 059 716

7 December 2011

Justice G Giudice
President
Fair Work Australia
GPO Box 1994
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Re: Equal Remuneration Case (C2010/3131) – Joint Submission by the Commonwealth and the Applicants – Statement of Support

Dear Justice Giudice,

I write to express Catholic Social Services Australia's (CSSA) support for the joint submission of the Australian Services Union and the Commonwealth Government to Fair Work Australia in this matter. Further, we welcome the Federal Government's stated commitment to fund 'its share' of a wage increase.

However, given the nature of funding arrangements for social services agencies, CSSA is concerned about the sector's capacity to fund the increase without reducing the number of services it can deliver. Inadequate funding would impact adversely on jobs, the people seeking out our services and, as a result, on the community more generally.

Unlike other businesses and/or industries that may be able to fund wage increases through increased pricing and/or fees, there is a very limited capacity for social service agencies to do so in the provision of services to the poor, disadvantaged and marginalised in society.

We commend the South Australian Government for committing to fund its 'fair share' today but are concerned the other State and Territory Governments are yet to confirm their commitment to funding the increases sought in the Joint Application.

Aggregate data for CSSA member agencies at the national level presents the following picture of proportional funding sources for each CSSA agency: 25% Federal funding; 45% State/Territory funding; and 30% self-generated funding

As the situation currently stands, around 75% of services provided by our members remain unfunded to meet the wage increase.

Yours sincerely,

Paul O'Callaghan
Executive Director