

# WOMEN'S RIGHTS WATCH



AUSTRALIAN  
**DEMOCRATS**

AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS WOMEN'S RIGHTS WATCH  
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## Focus – RU486 and a Review of second half of 2005

### Welcome to the first edition of Women's Rights Watch for 2006

Democrats  
Federal  
Leader,  
**Senator Lyn Allison**;  
Status of  
Women  
spokesperson,  
**Senator Natasha Stott Despoja**;  
South  
Australian  
Leader, Hon.  
**Sandra Kanck MLC**;  
and South  
Australian  
Social  
Justice  
spokesperson,  
Hon. **Kate Reynolds MLC**.

Please feel free to forward this email or parts of this email to friends and colleagues who may be interested.

Previous editions [here](#)

**ACTIO**

As this is being sent to you (15/2), the debate on the RU486 bill is underway in the Federal House of Reps and shaping up as a win there, as it was in the Senate last Thursday, with 44 votes for and 28 against. As might be expected, a much higher percentage of women (90%) voted for the legislation than men (46%). This surely demonstrates the need for more women to be elected to the parliament and for women to quiz their local and Senate candidates on their position on women's repro health at the next election before deciding how to vote!

Overcoming the prevailing attitude that we should not open the 'abortion can of worms' was difficult and many women in the parliament thought it possible that hard won gains would be reversed if we did so but I argued that women have never advanced their cause by shying from a fight.

It gave me enormous pleasure to work with women in other parties and to begin to undo the ultra conservative legacy of Senator Harradine. More in our bulletin.

In the last few months of 2005 the Government pushed through legislation that will have a major impact on women's work in the home and the workplace.

Widowed, separated and single parents will be forced into the workforce under the welfare changes. Ignored by the Government were the facts that the majority of these sole parents are already in the workforce and many of those who are not are unable to get jobs that allow them to combine work with raising their children, they are unable to access childcare or they would be financially worse off.

With breathtaking hypocrisy, the Government fully backs stay-at-home parenting if you're partnered (via Family Tax Benefit - B) but sole parents must be levered into the workforce, regardless of circumstances. The latest figures show that \$100 million has been paid out to families earning over \$125,000/year. We say parents should be able to choose and assisted to combine work and family through better education and training, flexible workplaces and accessible and affordable childcare. But more on this below.

We expect women to be the biggest losers in the Government's radical industrial relations changes. Our campaign "Women's Equality in the Workplace – help us stop it going backwards" is underway - more information below.

We hope you find our Women's Rights E-bulletin useful and that you will take up our suggestions for campaigning on these issues.

I'm keen to receive tips and information from readers to help us make this a really interesting and effective campaign tool for women's rights. To send feedback, please click on the Back Chat section.

Yours in Sisterhood!

SENATOR LYN ALLISON  
Leader of the Australian Democrats

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[Email MPs about RU486](#)

[Nominate wonder women](#)

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## 1. **RU486 – A Private Member’s Bill and Public Inquiry**

In October 2005 the Democrats announced that we would put up amendments to the next bill dealing with the Therapeutic Goods Administration Act to remove the current veto of the Minister over approval of Mifepristone (also known as RU486 or the abortion pill) which has been in place since 1996. Since then the campaign has gained momentum. The AMA, the Royal Australian & NZ College of Obstetricians and the Rural Health Alliance are some of the many health groups that have come out in support, acknowledging that it is a safe and effective alternative to surgical abortion.

Preferring to deal with this as a private member’s bill, the Government agreed to give priority to a bill sponsored by four female Senators from across the political spectrum This Bill has the same content as our original amendments.

The Senate Community Affairs Committee inquired into the Bill reported on the 8 February.

Despite a pledge by the Chair of the committee that the inquiry would stick to the issue addressed by the bill, it is turning into a broader debate about the abortion. 4,500 submissions have been received; the vast majority opposed and many repeating misinformation about risks associated with this alternative to surgical abortion. It is alarming how ready people are to use anti-abortion rhetoric and threats to shame and blame women.

The anti-abortion brigade – led by Australians Against RU486 - has come out in force; conducting push polling, advertising and organising what they describe as a national day of action on Australia Day using the theme 'It's not safe, it's not simple, it's not right'.

Despite their efforts, we are reasonably confident that the bill will be narrowly passed into law.

The Bill passed the Senate, and is now being debated in the House of Representatives.

**We encourage people to contact their local member**

**<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/members/mi-elctr.asp> over the next couple of days and ask them to support the Bill unamended.**

If the Bill passes, it will be a huge breakthrough for Australian women and should pave the way for more reforms such as:

- taking terminations out of the criminal code as the ACT government has done,
- buffer zones around clinics
- better access to emergency contraception
- ultra low dose oral contraception on the PBS and
- accurate unbiased advice and referral when women with unwanted pregnancies ring pregnancy counselling services
- removal of the prohibition on our overseas aid money being used for training health professionals in terminations, even in countries where it is legal, as here

For more information on our RU486 campaign go to

[http://www.democrats.org.au/campaigns/reproductive\\_rights/](http://www.democrats.org.au/campaigns/reproductive_rights/)

For submissions and copy of the senate committee report on the inquiry go to

[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac\\_ctte/ru486/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac_ctte/ru486/index.htm)

If you would like to join a support group in favour of making RU486 available to women, contact Dr Lydia Bennett at <mailto:lydiab11@bigpond.net.au>

Senator Lyn Allison Speech on RU486 Bill

[http://www.democrats.org.au/speeches/index.htm?speech\\_id=1782&display=1](http://www.democrats.org.au/speeches/index.htm?speech_id=1782&display=1)

Senator Stott Despoja Speech on RU486 Bill

[http://www.democrats.org.au/speeches/index.htm?speech\\_id=1783&display=1](http://www.democrats.org.au/speeches/index.htm?speech_id=1783&display=1)

## **2. Women at home and in the Workplace**

- **Women's Equality in the Workplace – help us stop it going backwards**

Did you know...

- On average, full-time working women get \$156.50 a week less than men
- Australian women are significantly over-represented in low-paid, low-status work
- The labour force participation rate for females aged 15-64 is 66.1% compared to males at 81%.
- Australia has one of the lowest workforce participation rates in the OECD for women with children under the age of 6.
- There are more female than male casual workers.
- Women are significantly under-represented in leadership roles. Of the top 200 companies listed on the Australian Stock Exchange, only one CEO is a woman.

The main issues that currently affect women's rights to equality in Australian workplaces are: pay inequity, low pay, casualisation, lack of workplace flexibility, interruption of superannuation contributions, lack of paid maternity leave, and unavailability of childcare.

With the announcement of the Government's radical industrial relations overhaul, the Democrats warned that women will go backwards. Click on this link for our campaign "Women's Equality in the Workplace – help us stop it going backwards."

[http://www.democrats.org.au/docs/2005/Women\\_and\\_IR\\_Sept05.pdf](http://www.democrats.org.au/docs/2005/Women_and_IR_Sept05.pdf)

Tell us about your experience in the workforce and what impact you think the IR reforms will have on you and your family, email [womensrightswatch@democrats.org.au](mailto:womensrightswatch@democrats.org.au) We will publish your stories on our website, anonymously if you prefer.

- **Gender Pay Gap – Action Needed**

The ABS publication "Australian Social Trends", showed a significant wage gap between men and women - a gap that has changed little under the Howard Government. The report found that women earned an average \$611.50 a week or 68 per cent of the average \$897.50 pay packet taken home by men. The report also looked at the average hourly ordinary time earnings for full-time non-managerial adult workers, which showed that women's earnings were 92 per cent of men's. Some analysts have argued in the past that the gender pay gap exists only because men work more hours, this data clearly shows that when you compare the same working hours, women are still earning less than men (How does this relate to the first point under 'did you know?')

Senator Stott Despoja made this statement to media in July 2005:

The continuing gender pay gap and the likely impact of the Government's industrial relations proposals on women highlight the urgent need for an inquiry into pay equity.

Since at least 2001, I have been calling for a national review of pay equity in Australia conducted by the Australian Industrial Relations Commission.

It is shameful that more than 30 years after the equal pay decisions of the 1970s, there is still a gender pay gap.

I am particularly concerned by today's reports from the ACTU that the gender pay gap is most apparent for those on Australian Workplace Agreements, with women on individual contracts earning \$5.10 per hour less than men on similar agreements.

It is time the Government initiated this inquiry into pay equity and introduced a suite of reforms to assist working women, including a national scheme of paid maternity leave; the right to return to work part-time after taking leave to have a baby; and flexible working hours.

See also Democrats press release "Inquiry needed in to Wage Gap and IR Impact on Women for more information

[http://www.democrats.org.au/news/index.htm?press\\_id=4707&display=1](http://www.democrats.org.au/news/index.htm?press_id=4707&display=1)

- **Women's Empowerment: Measuring the Global Gender Gap**

The results of the World Economic Forums study on the gender gap, Women's Empowerment: Measuring the Global Gender Gap, are a disappointment for all women around the world. The study, which measured the extent to which women have achieved equality with men in a number of critical areas, found the highest score attained by any country was only 5.53 out of a possible 7. Overall Australia ranked 10th in the world and scored 4.61 but was a poor 22nd for political empowerment, 18th for reproductive health and wellbeing, 17th for educational attainment and 15th for economic participation.

For the report and PR on Global Women's equality:

<http://www.weforum.org/site/homepublic.nsf/Content/Global+Competitiveness+Programme%5CWomen%27s+Empowerment%3A+Measuring+the+Global+Gender+Gap>

- **Democrats Initiate Senate Inquiry into Workplace Agreements**

Democrats Senator Andrew Murray initiated a Senate inquiry into workplace agreements. It reported on 31 October 2005 and amongst its findings concluded that women fare worse under individual arrangements than under centralised or collective ones. The Committee went on to suggest that broader use of AWAs in the workplace will bring about a widening in the gender pay gap, and that women stand to lose from such a development. The

Government Senators additional comments did not address the impact of workplace reforms on gender equity. The Report can be accessed here  
[http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/eet\\_ctte/indust\\_agreements/](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/eet_ctte/indust_agreements/)

- **Survey Shows Value of Paid Maternity Leave**

The Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency's annual survey on Paid Maternity Leave, released in August, shows increased recognition of the benefits of paid maternity leave ....more at

[http://www.democrats.org.au/news/index.htm?press\\_id=4773&display=1](http://www.democrats.org.au/news/index.htm?press_id=4773&display=1)

- **Women Know What They Want**

The Democrats welcomed the *What Women Want* report on the compounding impact of IR and welfare changes, released on 23 August, and backed by 64 national women's organisations representing several million women.

See the National Foundation of Australian Women website for What Women Want  
[www.nfaw.org](http://www.nfaw.org)

- **Parents Still Ignored in a Budget Time Warp**

The Adelaide Advertiser published an article by Senator Stott Despoja about the impact of the 2005 Budget on women. "This year's Budget is an attack on the most vulnerable in our society - particularly single parents and disability support pensioners - and women and mothers are among the real losers..." For the full article -

[http://parlinfoweb.parl.net/parlinfo/Repository1/Media/npaper\\_1/7P0G60.pdf](http://parlinfoweb.parl.net/parlinfo/Repository1/Media/npaper_1/7P0G60.pdf)

- **Not All Kids are Equal in the Eyes of the Government**

Senator Lyn Allison had an article published in the Canberra Times about the impact of Federal Government policies on kids, such as forcing single parents into the workforce. "Unless you are a two-parent, intact, married couple family, there was little to celebrate last week as part of National Family Week..." For the full article -

[http://www.democrats.org.au/articles/index.htm?article\\_id=36&display=1](http://www.democrats.org.au/articles/index.htm?article_id=36&display=1)

The Democrats wrote to the Prime Minister condemning the Government's decision to force single parents into the workforce, especially without adequate supports. The response showed no interest in our concerns.

- **Some Democrats Press Releases on Howard Government Welfare Changes**

- Smoke and mirrors in welfare to work changes

[http://www.democrats.org.au/news/index.htm?press\\_id=4807&display=1](http://www.democrats.org.au/news/index.htm?press_id=4807&display=1)

- Democrats welcome Government turnaround on Parents

[http://www.democrats.org.au/news/index.htm?press\\_id=4630&display=1](http://www.democrats.org.au/news/index.htm?press_id=4630&display=1)

- Budget: Wealthy parents good- poor parents bad

[http://www.democrats.org.au/news/index.htm?press\\_id=4560&display=1](http://www.democrats.org.au/news/index.htm?press_id=4560&display=1)

- Double Whammy to hit Low income parents

[http://www.democrats.org.au/news/index.htm?press\\_id=4675&display=1](http://www.democrats.org.au/news/index.htm?press_id=4675&display=1)

### **3. Don't mention women's reproductive health!**

There is an extraordinary reluctance in the Parliament to discuss reproductive health and any mention of these functions brings condemnation and accusations of 'abortion on demand', particularly from male National Party Senators.

Late last year the Prime Minister was scheduled to go to New York to discuss the UN Secretary-General's report on achievement towards the Millennium Development Goals. The Parliamentary Group on Population & Development requested that the PM mention the importance of reproductive health services in the world's poorest countries in tackling AIDS, maternal and infant death rates and, indeed economic development. Reference to reproductive health was removed under pressure from the Vatican when the goals were agreed in 2000.

The Democrats also put up the following motion that the Senate:

(a) recognises that the UN Secretary General's Report on achieving the Millennium Development Goals "In Larger Freedom", calls upon governments to ensure universal access to reproductive health services;

(b) acknowledges that in January 2005 the Prime Minister reaffirmed the ICPD's vision for human development, social justice, economic progress and environmental preservation and called on the international community, national governments and private philanthropic organisations to prioritise the ICPD programme for action; and

(c) recognises that access to sexual and reproductive health is also a critical strategy towards achieving gender equality and women's empowerment, the third of the Millennium Development Goals.

Senator Boswell, stopped the motion being put, saying "Let me make this clear so there can be no misunderstanding: if you vote for this resolution, you are voting for abortion on demand."

This was patently ridiculous. Senator Boswell's denial of formality is an indication of how much more important adherence to religious dictates is for some in the Parliament than compassion or assistance in overcoming the grinding poverty that affects so many women and their children in developing countries.

He did agree to support the motion in the end but with the addition of "this does not mean abortion on demand" but by that time the PM was already on his way to New York.

For Senator Allison's speech:

[http://parlinfoweb.aph.gov.au/piweb/TranslateWIPILink.aspx?Folder=hansards&Criteria=DOC\\_DATE:2005-09-08%3BSEQ\\_NUM:17%3B](http://parlinfoweb.aph.gov.au/piweb/TranslateWIPILink.aspx?Folder=hansards&Criteria=DOC_DATE:2005-09-08%3BSEQ_NUM:17%3B)

For Senator Stott Despoja's speech:

[http://parlinfoweb.aph.gov.au/piweb/TranslateWIPILink.aspx?Folder=hansards&Criteria=DOC\\_DATE:2005-09-08%3BSEQ\\_NUM:21%3B](http://parlinfoweb.aph.gov.au/piweb/TranslateWIPILink.aspx?Folder=hansards&Criteria=DOC_DATE:2005-09-08%3BSEQ_NUM:21%3B)

For what Senator Boswell had to say:

[http://parlinfoweb.aph.gov.au/piweb/TranslateWIPILink.aspx?Folder=hansards&Criteria=DOC\\_DATE:2005-09-08%3BSEQ\\_NUM:18%3B](http://parlinfoweb.aph.gov.au/piweb/TranslateWIPILink.aspx?Folder=hansards&Criteria=DOC_DATE:2005-09-08%3BSEQ_NUM:18%3B)

For Senator Stott Despoja's article on reproductive health:

[http://www.democrats.org.au/articles/index.htm?article\\_id=46&display=1](http://www.democrats.org.au/articles/index.htm?article_id=46&display=1)

## **4. A Buffer Zone Around Abortion Clinics**

The Democrats called for buffer zones to protect women from being harassed by anti-abortion activists who daily assemble outside clinics and routinely photograph women and accuse them of murder.

Senator Lyn Allison joined about 40 pro-choice activists in a rally outside the East Melbourne Fertility Control Clinic...to read more click here

[http://www.heraldsun.news.com.au/common/story\\_page/0,5478,16402457%255E1702,00.html](http://www.heraldsun.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5478,16402457%255E1702,00.html)

Women should be entitled to protection from harassment as they enter and leave clinics

where they are accessing legal medical care. Senator Stott Despoja wrote to Premier Steve Bracks and Health Minister Bronwyn Pike urging action on this issue. In response, they say women must be the ones to lay charges. As we all know, this is unlikely and unreasonable. for more on this story click here.

<http://theage.com.au/news/national/democrats-push-for-cliniclaw/2005/08/27/1124563067484.html>

## **5. Democrats Win for Adoptive Parents**

Senator Stott Despoja has lobbied hard for adoptive parents over the last two years; firstly for the now defunct Baby Bonus to be extended to them from the time of placement, and then for the age restriction on the Maternity Payment to be eliminated. Earlier this year, she won an extension on the Maternity Payment, so that it is now paid to those adopting a child up to the age of two. She continues to fight for the age restriction to be abolished so all adoptive parents have access to the Payment ... to read more click here

[http://www.democrats.org.au/news/index.htm?press\\_id=4651&display=1](http://www.democrats.org.au/news/index.htm?press_id=4651&display=1)

Click here for a copy of Senator Stott Despoja's speech to Family and Community Services Legislation Amendment (Family Assistance and Related Measures) Bill 2005

[http://www.democrats.org.au/speeches/index.htm?speech\\_id=1650&display=1](http://www.democrats.org.au/speeches/index.htm?speech_id=1650&display=1)

## **6. Democrats Make Progress on Better Access to Midwives**

Senator Allison initiated a meeting in August with the Federal Minister for Health and Dr Barb Vernon, executive officer of the Australian College of Midwives, to discuss the urgent need for Medicare rebates and the lack of available medical indemnity cover for midwives. In Australia only 1% of pregnant women are able to choose the care of a midwife during their pregnancy and birth. This is in stark contrast to New Zealand where 70% of women do so and where obstetricians are used only where complications exist. The serious shortage of obstetricians and GPs, particularly in country areas could easily be overcome by utilising our very well trained midwives to take women through their whole pregnancy.

Mr Abbott acknowledged the merit of a national maternity services policy and for referrals to midwives and promised to explore the proposal – as you would expect of someone so pro-baby!. We followed-up the meeting with a brief written overview of suggestions on how this could be progressed.

The Minister announced this month a new Medicare rebate of \$18 for antenatal referral 'checks' by nurses, midwives and registered Aboriginal health workers in rural and remote Australia. There are as yet no details on how this will work and we have requested a brief.

## **7. Senator Allison Speaks to the Senate on Premmie Babies and Care**

[http://parlinfoweb.aph.gov.au/piweb/TranslateWIPILink.aspx?Folder=hansards&Criteria=DOC\\_DATE:2005-08-09%3BSEQ\\_NUM:88%3B](http://parlinfoweb.aph.gov.au/piweb/TranslateWIPILink.aspx?Folder=hansards&Criteria=DOC_DATE:2005-08-09%3BSEQ_NUM:88%3B)

## **8. Senator Stott Despoja Has a Win on Breast Feeding Motion**

All political parties supported Senator Stott Despoja's breast feeding motion:

That the Senate:

(a) notes that:

- (i) the week beginning 1 August 2005 was World Breastfeeding Week,
  - (ii) the theme for the week was 'Breastfeeding and Family Foods (feeding beyond 6 months)',
  - (iii) breastfeeding is a natural and normal way of providing optimal nutrition, immunological and emotional nurturing for the growth and development of infants, and
  - (iv) every woman has the right to be supported and not discriminated against if they choose to breastfeed or not; and
- (b) notes that breastfeeding women must be supported by allowing them to take breastfeeding breaks and breaks to express milk, encouraging workplaces to provide places for mothers to breastfeed and express milk, and encouraging workplaces to provide the necessary facilities for the storage of breast milk.

See also article in the Adelaide Advertiser about breast feeding week  
[http://www.democrats.org.au/articles/index.htm?article\\_id=44&display=1](http://www.democrats.org.au/articles/index.htm?article_id=44&display=1)

## **9. Senator Allison initiates Senate Committee consideration of Gynaecological Cancers**

Amongst the mayhem that occurred during the last sitting weeks of 2005, Senator Allison, along with a number of other female Senators, won the Senate's agreement to refer to the Senate Community Affairs Committee petitions about the management and prevention of gynaecological cancers and sexually transmitted diseases in Australia. The Committee will hold a round table and invite experts to brief them on the issue and report back to the Parliament in March on further action.

## **10. Uncomfortable Questions Asked and Answered**

As promised, please find links to the following answers to questions put by:

### **Senator Lyn Allison**

Abortion service billing practices -

[http://parlinfoweb.aph.gov.au/piweb/TranslateWIPILink.aspx?Folder=hansards&Criteria=DOC\\_DATE:2005-08-17%3BSEQ\\_NUM:114%3B](http://parlinfoweb.aph.gov.au/piweb/TranslateWIPILink.aspx?Folder=hansards&Criteria=DOC_DATE:2005-08-17%3BSEQ_NUM:114%3B)

Abortion and Medicare -

[http://parlinfoweb.aph.gov.au/piweb/TranslateWIPILink.aspx?Folder=hansards&Criteria=DOC\\_DATE:2005-08-09%3BSEQ\\_NUM:104%3B](http://parlinfoweb.aph.gov.au/piweb/TranslateWIPILink.aspx?Folder=hansards&Criteria=DOC_DATE:2005-08-09%3BSEQ_NUM:104%3B)

### **Senator Stott Despoja**

Pregnancy Counselling -

[http://parlinfoweb.aph.gov.au/piweb/TranslateWIPILink.aspx?Folder=hansards&Criteria=DOC\\_DATE:2005-08-09%3BSEQ\\_NUM:107%3B](http://parlinfoweb.aph.gov.au/piweb/TranslateWIPILink.aspx?Folder=hansards&Criteria=DOC_DATE:2005-08-09%3BSEQ_NUM:107%3B)

### **New Questions Asked**

#### **Senator Stott Despoja**

Pregnancy Counselling

## Senator Allison

Pregnancy counselling and Trade Practices Act

Change in Medicare rebates for terminations of pregnancies

Availability of oral contraception

Access to mammograms in the Indian Ocean Territories

Funding for community care services

Housing affordability

Drugs for Use in Children

If you have questions you would like us to ask Government Ministers, please email Kellie at [womensrightswatch@democrats.org.au](mailto:womensrightswatch@democrats.org.au)

## 11. Wonder Woman Profile

The Wonder Woman profile is an initiative to promote and encourage women connected with the advancement of women's rights. Inclusion does not imply any political affiliation with the Australian Democrats unless explicitly stated.

Nominate a 'Wonder Woman' you would like to see profiled here. Send an email to Kellie at [womensrightswatch@democrats.org.au](mailto:womensrightswatch@democrats.org.au)

Our Wonder Woman for this edition is, **Marina Castellanos**, she is a volunteer with the Latin American Community. Read about her below.

## WONDER WOMAN



**Name:**

Marina Castellanos (born in El Salvador)

**Role and organisation (if applicable):**

Currently working as volunteer with the Latin American Community helping people on different areas: older people, community housing, advocacy, counselling and education.

**What is the most important issue relating to women's lives for you/your organisation?**

Violence against women which is a cross-cultural issue. Women need to increase their awareness how patriarchal systems have oppressed them through history.

**How are you involved in addressing this issue?**

I take advantage of any opportunity to increase awareness on this issue when I work with groups and individuals. I include men also in my approach. I believe men need to increase their awareness also how oppressive social systems encourage them to perpetuate violence. It is not easy task.

**What is the best piece of advice or inspiration you have received on women's rights and who was it from?**

Solidarity to continue the struggle against all forms of violence against women and children. They were many women in my country of origin who inspired me. Some of them were killed in the struggle to see our country free of oppression. My mother was my greater inspiration for her courage and solidarity with the most in need.

In Australia I admire Sisters De Lourdes Jarrett, Genevieve Caffery and Joan Paul for the great work they do supporting migrants and refugees mainly women and children. Perhaps their names are not well known. I thank all of them for being my inspiration.

**What advice would you give to young women about improving the status of women?**

To value themselves and support one another in order to become stronger in the struggle ...together we can conquer the world.

**How do you react when you experience derogatory attitudes towards women?**

At the beginning I was a little angry. But I have learnt to be wiser when I respond. Well I am my sixties now, men listen to me.

**Where would you search for information/research about the status of women?**

I search your web site of course. I search Latin American Women web sites too.

**How would you rate women's equality compared to that of men's now? (Far from Equal, Near Equal, or Equal)**

I think it is still a long way to achieve equality. I never lose hope that future generations will live in a world where justice will prevail. Women's struggle continues for a better world.

**Where do you see women's equality in the future?**

Politics, industry, work place, education, health and importantly at home.

**The Wonder Woman profile is an initiative of the Australian Democrats to promote and encourage women connected with the advancement of women's rights. Inclusion does not imply any political affiliation with the Australian Democrats unless explicitly stated.**

## **Back Chat**

Please let us know if you have:

- Comments to add;
- Questions you want the Government to answer;
- Stories to share;
- Requests for our equality postcards;
- Advice to give; or
- Other feedback to offer.

Email Kellie at [womensrightswatch@democrats.org.au](mailto:womensrightswatch@democrats.org.au)

## **Status of Women press releases**

[Status of Women press releases](#)

## **Women's Rights Watch campaign page**

[www.democrats.org.au/campaigns/womens\\_rights\\_watch/](http://www.democrats.org.au/campaigns/womens_rights_watch/)