

Investing in Women's Futures outlines actions and strategies to address the barriers that impact on women's economic wellbeing.

The empowerment of women and girls is one of the most effective ways to achieve higher economic growth.

“the economic empowerment of women is essential for achieving true gender equality”

UN Women Australia National Committee

Investing in Women's Futures: South Australia's Economic Empowerment Blueprint outlines initiatives and actions which aim to support women's economic empowerment across their lifetime by:

Encouraging the undertaking of study, skills and employment in non-traditional areas

- International research has shown estimated that 75 per cent of fastest growing occupations require STEM skills.

Improving financial literacy

- Initiatives that support women's financial literacy and money management are fundamental to ensuring women's lifelong wellbeing.

Decreasing the gender wage gap

- Apart from being an equity issue, reducing the gender pay gap has significant economic benefits for the country.

Increasing economic wellbeing to reduce violence against women

- Increasing women's economic wellbeing can have a significant impact on the reduction and prevention of violence against women.

Providing support during parental leave and when returning to work

- Keeping in touch with the workplace enables employees to smoothly transition back to the workplace.

Helping to manage caring responsibilities through access to a range of flexible work arrangements

- Access to flexible work options provides women with the ability to manage their work and caring responsibilities.

Educating women on superannuation

- Education on super and financial security at retirement is essential to support older women's wellbeing.

Key Facts

The national pay gap is currently 17.9 per cent. South Australia has the lowest pay gap in Australia at 10.8 per cent.

It is estimated that reducing the gender pay gap could improve Australia's GDP by around \$56 billion a year.

In a recent survey 49 per cent of mothers reported experiencing discrimination in the workplace at some point during pregnancy, parental leave or on their return to work.

Making sure people with interrupted career paths achieve their full career potential would improve the return on our education investment by over \$8 billion.

A 2014 survey found that 45 per cent of women graded their financial literacy as a "C" or lower.

39 per cent of Australian women will reach retirement age with no superannuation.

Examples of Actions

- 'Wikibombs' to highlight women role models working in STEM and other non-traditional roles
- Holding information sessions on financial literacy and superannuation at the Women's Information Service
- Working to raise the financial abuse of older women
- Undertaking research into the specific causes of the Gender Pay Gap in South Australia
- Encouraging men to take up flexible work options