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### Election 2010: What's in it for women?

How well do the policies of the Australian Labor Party, the Coalition and the Greens meet the needs of women in Australia? According to Equality Rights Alliance, while progress has been, many policies remain blind to their possible impact on women.

Today Equality Rights Alliance launched *Election 2010: What's in it for women?*, an examination of the policy positions and statements of the ALP, the Coalition and the Greens against areas of need for women. "In certain policy areas, real advances have been made for women in Australia" said Kathy Richards, Equality Rights Alliance Manager.

"We welcome the recent launch of the Government's *National Action Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Their Children* as a very significant step towards addressing the relentless epidemic of violence against women and girls".

"It also very significant and pleasing to have across the board support for Paid Parental Leave as an important policy to reduce the obstacles women face in work force participation and support families with the arrival of a new baby".

Equality Rights Alliance also welcomes having pay equity on parties' agenda. "We now need supportive statements translated to policy to address the fact that on average women working full time earn only 83 cents in the dollar earned by men" urged Kathy Richards.

However Equality Rights Alliance also reported many significant areas of policy remain without analysis or assessment as to their impacts on women. This includes a failure to deliver funding in important policy areas. "The ALP has failed to deliver funding to implement its promised National Women's Health Policy. Disappointingly, the Coalition has indicated it will scrap funding to strengthen anti-discrimination laws, which would include laws that protect against sex discrimination".

"We are also disappointed to see that neither major party has made any headway into developing long term programs to promote and support women in vocational and education training – particularly for women in non-traditional trades and professions".

"In this last week of the election campaign, Equality Rights Alliance urges all parties to put gender equality on the agenda and make women count in the 2010 Federal Election". ***Election 2010: What's in it for women?*** can be found at [www.equalityrightsalliance.org.au/ERA\\_Election\\_2010.pdf](http://www.equalityrightsalliance.org.au/ERA_Election_2010.pdf)

*Equality Rights Alliance (ERA) is Australia's largest network of non government, not-for-profit and social enterprises coming together to advocate for gender equality, women's leadership and policies responses that support women's diversity.*

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