



# The Hon David Bradbury MP

## FEDERAL MEMBER FOR LINDSAY

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## Media Release

### Local community service workers are closer to pay equity

More than 40,000 New South Wales workers in the social and community sector are a step closer to achieving pay equity after the Gillard Government announced it will provide \$2 billion to deliver an historic pay rise to workers in the sector, said Federal Member for Lindsay, David Bradbury MP.

"These workers, many of them women, are in critical jobs caring for people with disabilities, counselling families in crisis, running homeless shelters and working with victims of domestic or sexual assault," Mr Bradbury said today.

"They make a difference in the community and deserve to be properly rewarded for their hard work and efforts.

"This historic commitment from the Government will help 150,000 Australians, including 120,000 women, achieve the equal pay they deserve."

"The Government today made a joint submission with the Australian Services Union to Fair Work Australia (**FWA**) which, if accepted, will help close the pay gap between men and women and fund the Government's fair share of wage increases for workers in the social and community services sector.

"Nearly two thirds of community sector workers have post-school qualifications, compared to just over half of workers in other industries, yet the average full time wage is just over \$46,000 per year, compared to the average wage of \$58,000.

"It is unacceptable that women in full-time work earn on average one fifth less than men.

"The Gillard Government is committed to achieving a fair outcome for workers in this sector whose work has long been undervalued.

"Applications like the one made by community sector workers to FWA would not have been possible if the Federal Labor Government had not repealed Work Choice and put in place a fairer industrial relations system.

"If the Government's submission is supported by FWA it will not just mean fair pay, it will mean tens of thousands of working people and their families will take home a bigger pay packet at the end of the day."