



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

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Women Lead the Way at Newcastle Uni

Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson MP, today congratulated the University of Newcastle for its inclusion in a list of the nation's top organisations for leading the way in recognising and advancing women in the workplace.

The list was announced today - International Women's Day.

"The University of Newcastle is often acknowledged as being at the forefront of research and academic studies, but this particular achievement is of equal importance," said Ms Grierson.

"Good examples of a positive approach to women in the workplace are always welcome, and I encourage other employers to work towards a similar goal."

The University will receive an Employer of Choice for Women citation for encouraging women to reach their full potential.

All 95 organisations recognised today had to meet stringent criteria set by the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency (EOWA), to show that they were improving outcomes for women.

The Government has taken a number of steps to advance opportunities for women in the workplace including increased support for child care and changes to the Fair Work Act such as the right to equal pay for work of equal or comparable value and a special bargaining stream for workers in low paid sectors.

The Government has also committed \$731 million over five years to establish Australia's first comprehensive Paid Parental Leave scheme from 1 January 2011. The national scheme will encourage women to maintain their connection with the workforce and their careers. Australia has been one of only two OECD countries, along with the USA, which did not have a comprehensive paid parental leave scheme.

For a full list of the EOWA Employer of Choice for Women organisations please go to:
www.eowa.gov.au/EOWA_Employer_of_Choice_for_Women/2010/Media_Page.asp

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