

## **Policies and strategies related to economic security**

*Investing in Women's Futures: South Australia's Women's Economic Empowerment Blueprint*

[http://www.officeforwomen.sa.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0016/40075/Investing-in-Womens-Futures-South-Australias-Womens-Economic-Empowerment-Blueprint-FINAL-PDF.pdf](http://www.officeforwomen.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/40075/Investing-in-Womens-Futures-South-Australias-Womens-Economic-Empowerment-Blueprint-FINAL-PDF.pdf)

This is a plan that recognises the costs felt by women and children when women and men do not have equal access to resources and equal opportunities to take part in decision making. It is about helping all women gain financial independence and builds on South Australia's women's policy, *Achieving Women's Equality*. It outlines priority initiatives that are achievable now at a South Australian level. The initiatives are aimed at the following areas:

- Encouraging the undertaking of study, skills and employment in non-traditional areas, particularly science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)
- Improving financial literacy
- Increasing economic wellbeing to reduce violence against women
- Providing support during parental leave and when returning to work
- Helping to manage caring responsibilities through access to a range of flexible work arrangements
- Educating women on superannuation and saving for retirement

*Achieving Women's Equality: South Australia's Women's Policy*

[http://www.officeforwomen.sa.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/29656/FINAL-AWE-Womens-Policy-CONTENT.pdf](http://www.officeforwomen.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/29656/FINAL-AWE-Womens-Policy-CONTENT.pdf)

The vision of this policy is that women and girls in South Australia will be able to fully participate in and share the benefits of living in South Australia. It recognises that the full and free participation of women and girls in all aspects of society is critical to South Australia's future. In particular, the policy aims to:

- Increase the number of women participating in employment, education or training, particularly in non-traditional sectors such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)
- Improve the financial planning and literacy skills of women
- Increase access to flexible work options for all workers

The policy aims to ensure all women, including vulnerable groups of women, have economic security, enabling them to plan for the future and exercise choice and control over their lives.

*Women in STEM web resource*

<http://www.officeforwomen.sa.gov.au/womens-policy/STEM>

- Located on the Office for Women's website, Women in STEM focuses on how to attract and retain women in Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics employment and includes information on mentoring and support networks for women, access to programs for young women, and how to address stereotypes and the myth that women are not interested in STEM.

## **Policies and strategies related to safety and wellbeing**

*A Right to Safety: South Australia's Women's Safety Strategy*

[http://officeforwomen.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/5140/A-Right-to-Safety.pdf](http://officeforwomen.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0010/5140/A-Right-to-Safety.pdf)

- This strategy builds on the reforms undertaken through the *Women's Safety Strategy* to improve our legislation and services and to strengthen community understanding of the effects of violence against women. It has also has a stronger focus on early intervention and prevention – to stop this violence from occurring in the first place.
- Of note within this strategy is the *Family Safety Framework*. The Family Safety Framework ensures that families most at risk of violence are dealt with in a more structured and systematic way, through agencies sharing information and taking responsibility for supporting families to navigate the service system.

### *Ceduna Building Resilience initiatives*

- The Office for Women will implement a range of initiatives targeting family violence in Ceduna and surrounding areas, including Yalata and Oak Valley. These include:
  - primary prevention projects,
  - women's gatherings (State Aboriginal Women's Gatherings),
  - assertive community outreach and
  - support for young Aboriginal women with children or in late stage pregnancy who have experienced family violence:
    - assisting with meal planning, shopping, hygiene, washing clothes and other household tasks.
    - assisting mothers with sleeping, feeding, care and attachment, as directed by professional services.
    - delivery of parenting programs and resources to promote early childhood care and development.
    - address barriers to effective parenting, such as inadequate housing, domestic violence issues and/or poor money management.

*The Office for Women is currently preparing a progress report which will include population level progress against many of these policies and strategies. This however will not be available for some months.*