

# Media Release

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **NCOSS CALLS ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO COMMIT TO FAIR PAY FOR SOCIAL SERVICES WORKERS THIS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

Ahead of International Women's Day, NCOSS and Women's Alliance are calling on the Federal Government to commit to renewing vital funding for the highly feminised community service sector.

The funding in question is the Equal Remuneration Order supplementation, which was put in place to ensure workers in this sector, made up of 80% women, were fairly paid.

The funding is due to expire on 30 June 2021, and the Federal Government has not yet committed to extending it.

These workers provide vital support to vulnerable people, including domestic violence, mental health and homelessness support.

NCOSS CEO, Joanna Quilty, said community organisations perform a critical role in helping the most disadvantaged, and their funding must be guaranteed, or services risk being affected.

"Community service workers deserve fair pay for their important work. This funding must be guaranteed and built into baseline funding to ensure long-term certainty," Ms Quilty said.

"If this funding is not guaranteed it would not only impact women working in the sector, but also the women they help, including with emergency accommodation and domestic violence services.

"This is a sector that already runs on a shoestring and we need the Federal Government to guarantee this funding so they can move forward with confidence.

"If the Federal Government does not commit to renewing this funding, services are at risk and we will likely see a widening the gender pay gap.

"These workers deserve fair pay for their important work."

Women's Alliance said highly quality support is essential and must be fully resourced.

"All grants must be increased to incorporate the Fair Work equal pay ruling. Without these increases services may be forced to reduce both staff and support for clients," Women's Alliance co-convenors Karen Willis and Joanne Yates said.

"Some services will simply not survive. This will include critical services for those who have experienced sexual and domestic violence.

To find out more about NCOSS, visit: [www.ncoss.org.au](http://www.ncoss.org.au)

**Media contact: Nick Trainor 0407 078 138**