

MEDIA ALERT

Thursday, AUGUST 30, 2018

Employers should bear greater responsibility for ending workplace sexual harassment

Australian employers should carry responsibility for creating a workplace free from sexual harassment, rather than relying on individual complainants to come forward, according to a discussion paper released today by Unions NSW.

The discussion paper informs a Roundtable to be held at NSW Parliament House today from 10:30am in Preston Stanley Room.

Workplace sexual harassment is an acute problem in Australia. One third of Australian women have been sexually harassed, the vast majority at work.

Only one in five people sexually harassed at work make a complaint, partly because the current system for complaints is slow, costly and requires complainants to relive the trauma.

Today's roundtable will include trade unionists, lawyers, women and community organisation advocates and academics.

Its deliberations will feed into an Australian Human Rights Commission inquiry into sexual harassment.

Reform options to be canvassed include:

- Reforming anti-discrimination laws so that complainants have a longer timeframe to register their complaint
- Reforming the cap on compensation in NSW
- Reforming the Fair Work Act to give it the power to deal specifically with sexual harassment

Spokespeople available for comment include:

- * Judith Keijda, President of Unions NSW
- * Alex Grayson, principal at Maurice Blackburn
- * Professor Nareen Young, Now Australia
- * Associate Professor Rae Cooper, University of Sydney

To arrange an interview please call Nick Lucchinelli on 0422229032 or Suze Metherell 0412 867084

Unsubscribe from future messages from this publisher.