

Women's Report Card

Measuring Women's Progress
Update 2006



Department for
Community Development
Office for Women's Policy

Minister's Foreword

The Women's Report Card was published in March 2004 and provided a series of indicators measuring aspects of women's lives in Western Australia. This update delivers on a commitment to update the indicators on a regular basis.

This update indicates improvements in many aspects of women's lives, most notably with the increase of women within the labour market and in senior positions within the public service. However, more work needs to be done considering these advances for women have not resulted in any improvement to the gender pay gap for women.

The Office for Women's Policy will use this information to engage with relevant government agencies in considering how this report can inform policy making so that future updates reflect greater positive change.

Margaret Quirk MLA

MINISTER FOR WOMEN'S INTERESTS

Women's Report Card: Measuring Women's Progress Update 2006

In 2004 the Women's Report Card established a set of indicators measuring progress in the lives of women in Western Australia. The following report provides an update of those indicators.

The choice of indicators in the Women's Report Card was influenced by community engagement with women, existing policy issues, national and international indicators and by the availability of relevant and reliable data. The indicators are drawn from around 50 different sources and the data is released at intervals ranging from quarterly to every four years. Current data availability has allowed for 86 per cent of indicators to be updated. Some indicators have been improved through data sources and other refinements.

Unless otherwise stated all figures relate to women (aged 15+) in Western Australia.

Senior positions in public authorities	2003	2005
Senior Executive Service	20.5	(% women) 23.9
Corporate Executive	27.1	29.2
Line Managers	30.1	32.7
Local Government Management Tier 1	4.2	2.8
Local Government Management Tier 2	16.6	19.4
Local Government Management Tier 3	27.7	32.7
University Management Tier 1	25.0	25.0
University Management Tier 2	28.6	29.6
University Management Tier 3	30.3	35.6

Business leadership	2001	2004
Chief Executive Officers (CEOs)	*12.7	(% women) 13.1
Small business owners	34.5	34.7
Self employed persons (% employed women)	11.9	**12.0

*Baseline figure is 2003, **Update figure is 2005

Participation in post compulsory education	2002	2005
Apparent retention rates (<i>% students remaining in school to Yr 12</i>) (a)	78.3	77.5
Vocational education and training enrolments#	46.7	(% women) *47.1
Higher education enrolments	57.2	55.3
<i>*Update figure is 2004</i>		

Elected and appointed positions in government	2003	2006
Local Government Councillors	26.3	(% women) *29.0
WA Parliament Legislative Assembly	22.8	22.8
WA Parliament Legislative Council	29.4	41.2
Federal Parliament House of Representatives	33.3	20.0
Federal Parliament Senate	16.7	25.0
Boards and committees#	28.9	30.8
<i>*Update figure is 2005</i>		

Unions	2003	2006
Delegates	42.0	(% women) 35.0

Labour force participation	2003	2005
Participation rate#	57.2	59.4
Unemployment rate#	6.0	5.0
Underemployment among part time employees (%)	21.5	19.8
Employed part time# (<i>% employed women</i>)	49.0	48.4
Multiple jobs	*11.5	N/A
Casual labour	*21.5	N/A
<i>*Baseline figure is 2000</i>		

Workplace training	2003	2005
Apprenticeships#	12.5	(% women) 11.5
Traineeships#	43.5	49.4

Pay equity (b)	2003	2005
Gender pay gap (<i>women's earnings as % of men's</i>)#	23.2	24.7

Family friendly workplaces	2000	2003
		(% employed women with children under 12 years of age)
Access to rostered days off	5.6	7.8
Negotiated fixed hours	31.6	26.9
Choose timing of annual leave	71.2	68.8
With flexible hours	43.9	40.4
With leave entitlements	64.6	61.5

Women in the legal system		Baseline	Update
Judiciary	<i>Reference period (2003-2006)</i>	24.4	(% women) 28.3
Law students	(2003-2004)	56.7	57.8
Lawyers#	(2003/04)	38.9	NUA
Senior Counsel	(2004-2006)	4.8	5.9

Women in the police service		2001	2005
Sworn Police Officers#		13.2	(% women) 17.6
Unsworn Police Staff#		60.6	60.8
Senior WA Police Officers (Assistant Commissioners)		0	12.5

Victims of crime and imprisonment		2002	2003
Reported sexual assault cases finalised after 30 days (%) (c)		39.3	49.9
Sexual assault cases resulting in proceedings against offender (% of finalised) (c)		53.1	45.5
Imprisonment rate (d)		26.2	*35.1
<i>*Update figure is 2005</i>			

Provision of family care and the workplace		1998	2003
Primary carers (% women)		66.2	73.2
Carers (% of all women)		12.1	13.7
Principal reason for caring - family responsibility (%)		57.6	47.4
Principal reason for caring - no other choice (%)		36.7	29.9
Labour force participation of primary carers (c)		43.8	41.0
Unmet demand for formal child care (e)		*4.2	NUA
		2003	2005
Sole mother families (as % of all families)#		(with children under 15 years) 20.9	21.0
Sole parent families with employed parent (as % of all sole parent families)# (c)		44.0	51.3
<i>*Baseline figure is 2002</i>			

Violence against women		Baseline	Update
Victims of physical and threatened violence in last 12 months# (% all women) (d)	<i>Reference Period (2002)</i>	9.5	NUA
Incidence of reported violence against women in the workplace# (f)	(2001-2003)	0.41	0.65
Sexual assault victimisation prevalence rate# (% all women) (d)	(1998-2002)	0.5	*0.4
Reported sexual assault# (prevalence rate per 100,000 females) (g)	(2002-2004)	143.4	97.1
Percentage of female SAAP clients receiving support related to domestic violence# (% of female SAAP clients) (g) (h)	(2002/03-2004/05)	72.6	69.8
Hospital separations due to assault by spouse# (%) (d)	(2002/03-2004/05)	0.18	0.15
<i>*Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution</i>			

Perception of safety on public transport and in the community	2003	2005
Always/usually feel safe on board buses/trains during the day	97.0	(% women) 97.9
Always/usually feel safe on board buses/trains at night	71.0	73.5
Always/usually feel safe at stations/interchanges during the day	93.0	94.2
Always/usually feel safe stations/interchanges at night	49.0	54.8
Perception of sexual assault as a problem in community# (c)	*2.6	**2.2
<i>*Baseline figure is 1998, **update figure is 2002</i>		

Senior women's health and wellbeing	2003	2004
Perception of ageing as positive stage of life (age 60 years+)	53.0	(% women) 58.0
Perception of ageing as productive stage of life (age 60 years+)	55.0	56.0
Health status very good/excellent (self-assessed, age 65 years+)	*34.6	NUA
Sport/activity participation (age 60 years+)	*57.3	NUA
<i>*Baseline figures are 2002</i>		

Senior women's family and community involvement	2003	2004
Providing unpaid informal care and support (age 65 years and over)	*13.4	(% age 65 years and over) 15.4
Contact with family and friends outside home in last week (age 65 years+)	**94.5	NUA
Undertaking voluntary work in last 12 months (age 65 years+)	30.2	NUA
Victims of elder abuse (age 60 years+)	0.9	NUA
Feel very safe/safe at home after dark (age 65 years+)	64.5	NUA
<i>*Baseline figure is 1998, **baseline figure is 2002</i>		

Senior women and income	2003	2005
Average weekly income (age 60 years+) (\$)	229.0	NUA
Reliance on government pensions (age 60 years+) (i) (%)	62.4	58.0
Labour force participation rate (age 45-54 years)#	76.7	77.8
Labour force participation rate (age 55-59 years)#	55.3	60.4
Labour force participation rate (age 60-64 years)#	23.7	38.1
Computer usage at home (age 65 years+) (%)	13.8	NUA
Internet usage at home (age 65 years+) (%)	10.3	NUA

Life expectancy	1999-2001	2002-2004
Life expectancy at birth (females born in reference years)	82.8	(Years) 83.3

Lifestyle and associated risk factors	2003	2005
Participates in sufficient level of physical activity# (j)	50.2	(% women) 45.6
Low risk alcohol consumption# (j)	62.0	63.6
No smoking# (j)	83.4	83.0

Disabilities	1998	2003
With reported disabilities# (%) (k)	22.3	24.4

Illness, injury and hospitalisation	2003	2004
Top long term health conditions (j) (Prevalence rate % women)	(top three) Arthritis (26.5%) Injury (16.8%) Asthma (8.3%)	(top three) Arthritis (29.9) Injury (14.7%) Mental health condition (9.2%)
Top causes of hospitalisation# (d) (Rate per 1,000 women aged 18 years and over)	Genitourinary diseases (74.8) Malignant neoplasms (42.9) Musculoskeletal diseases (28.7)	Genitourinary diseases (78.1) Malignant neoplasms (40.7) Musculoskeletal diseases (27.5)

Mental health and well being	Reference period	Baseline	Update
Mental health condition# (% all women) (j)	(2002-2003)	8.0	9.2
Medication usage to improve mental wellbeing (% with condition) (d)	(2001-2004/05)	*22.2	**24.0

Sexual and reproductive health	Reference Period	Baseline	Update
Teenage births (Age Specific Fertility Rate - per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years)	(2002-2004)	18.6	19.7
Chlamydia crude notification rate# (per 100,000 females) (g)	(2003-2005)	227.8	319.9
Gonorrhoea crude notification rate# (per 100,000 females) (g)	(2003-2005)	67.1	68.6
Caesarean section rate (% of deliveries) (g)	(2001-2003)	27.6	30.9
Cervical cancer screening tests (% age 20-69 years)#	(2002/03-2003/04)	60.6	60.2
Breast screening programs (% age 50-69 years)#	(2003-2005)	55.0	58.0

Access to female GPs	2001	2003
Employed GPS	31.9	(% women) 33.3
Primary Care Practitioners	36.5	36.9

'NUA' denotes No Update Available (at 3/3/06).

Denotes new indicator, revisions to baseline figure, indicator measure and/or data source.

- (a) Changes in the classification of secondary students in WA have contributed to a fall in apparent retention rates between 2003 and 2005.
- (b) Based on Average Weekly Ordinary Time Earnings, seasonally adjusted, August quarter.
- (c) Figure relates to both women and men.
- (d) Figure relates to women aged 18 years and over.
- (e) Figures relates to % of children aged 0-11 years who required (additional) formal care.
- (f) Incidence is based on Lost Time Injuries and Diseases (LTI/Ds) per million hours worked divided by the total number of employed women in the given year.
- (g) Figure relates to females (all ages).
- (h) Figure relates to percentage of female Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) clients who received support from domestic violence agencies or cited domestic violence as a reason or main reason for seeking SAAP assistance or were provided with domestic violence counselling and support.
- (i) Baseline figure is based on 3rd qtr 2003 and update on 2006 annual average.
- (j) Figure relates to women aged 16 years and over.
- (k) Includes those who do not have a specific limitation or restriction

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