



2013-14 Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

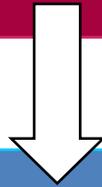
Hon Heidi Victoria MLA

Minister for Women's Affairs

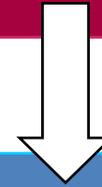
24 May 2013, 2.15 – 2.45pm

Why the government has a specific focus on women

Much has been achieved by the Victorian Government to improve the social and economic status of Victorian women, however there is more to be done.



Inequality between men and women has a significant social and economic cost



Improving gender equality is good for productivity

Minister for Women's Affairs responsibilities:

- women's leadership
- promoting the status of women
- women's economic participation

Minister for Community Services responsibility:

- *Victoria's Action Plan to Address Violence Against Women and Children 2012 – 2015* (links with child protection, out-of-home care and homelessness)

The Office of Women's Affairs

		Objectives		
		Building capacity	Changing attitudes and behaviours	Addressing systemic and structural barriers
Priority focus areas	Economic participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empower women to be economically independent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase female workforce participation and close the pay gap. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and address barriers to full and equal labour market participation.
	Addressing violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve government response and support services to meet the needs of women experiencing violence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote equitable treatment of women and men. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address key determinants of violence against women through prevention, early intervention and response.
	Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase women's representation in leadership roles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenge traditional conceptions of leadership and raise the profile of female leaders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine drivers of female under-representation in decision-making roles.

The Victorian Government supports the increased representation of women in leadership roles in both the public and private sectors.

Initiatives include:

- The Victorian Women's Governance Scholarship Program
- The Victorian Women's Register.

Achievements – supporting women's leadership

- The *Think Women for Local Government Project* supported women to nominate for the 2012 council elections.
- The results for 2012 saw:



Achievements – promoting the status of Victorian women

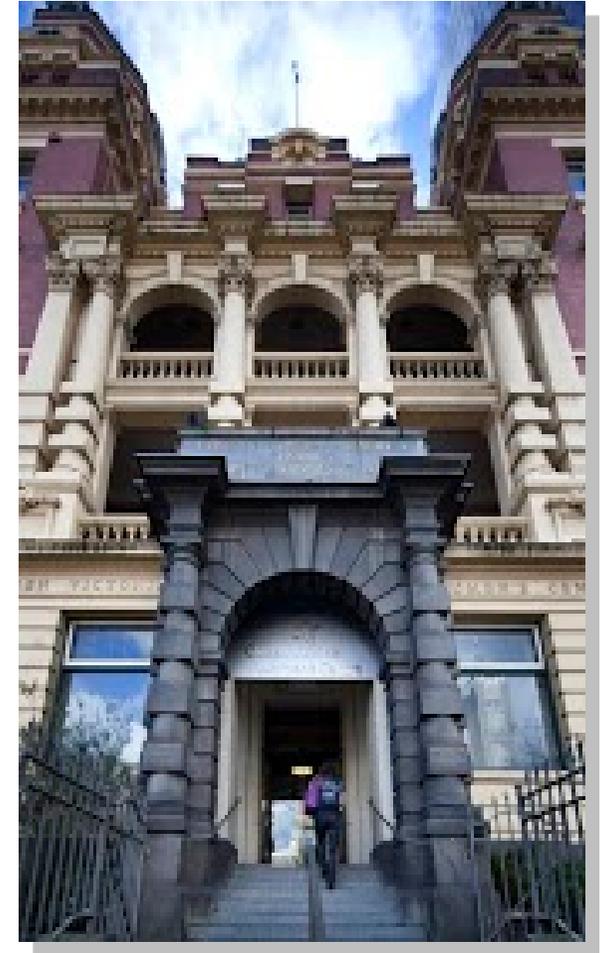
In March 2013, twenty women were inducted onto the Victorian Honour Roll of Women as part of International Women's Day celebrations. There are now **518** women on the Honour Roll.



Victorian Honour Roll Inductees March 2013

Achievements – promoting the status of Victorian women

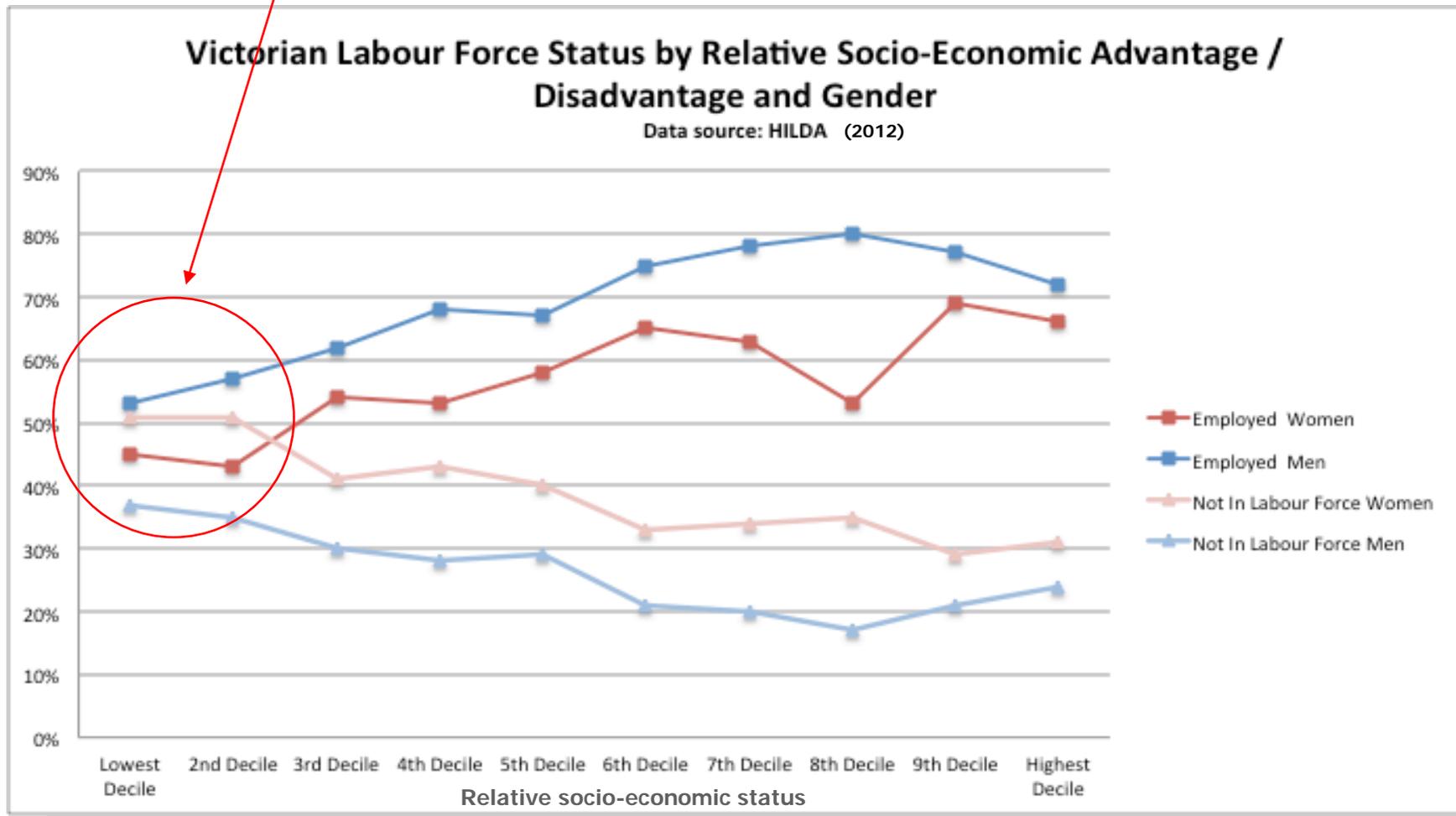
- The Victorian Government continues to support the operation of the Queen Victoria Women's Centre Trust.
- Programs, events and venues provided a unique opportunity for over **13,000** women to connect on issues that impact on women.
- Performance against 2011-12 KPIs:
 - High building occupancy rate of 99%
 - Increases in venue usage
 - Satisfaction with workshops, programs and educational seminars high at 86%.



Queen Victoria Women's Centre
Heritage Building

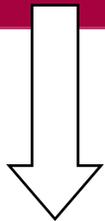
Women's participation in the labour force

The graph shows that for women in the two lowest socio-economic groups, the proportion of women not in the labour force exceeds the proportion of women employed.



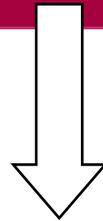
Women's Economic Participation

The Victorian Government committed \$2.4 million to improve women's economic participation and leadership.

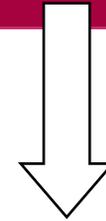


Women's employment support

Helping women build their employment and business skills



Research evaluation



Partnerships to increase women's economic participation and leadership

Government initiatives for women

The 2013-14 Victorian Budget provides support for:

- women in their role as carers
 - \$46.3 million to support Victorian children in their critical years before school
 - \$34.3 million over five years for early childhood intervention places
 - \$7 million to upgrade children's centres and kindergartens
 - \$9.4 million for mother-baby units in regional Victoria
 - Arts Centre Melbourne to deliver family and education programs
- vulnerable women and their children
 - \$27.3 million for homelessness services and support
 - \$3.8 million for men's behaviour change programs
 - \$1.5 million over two years to support culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- women's economic participation
 - \$4.6 million for scholarships for early years educators
 - wage increases for social and community services workers
 - \$7 million to continue financial counselling for a further 12 months
 - concessions on the Fire Services Property Levy
 - increased support for senior Victorians



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