



Women's Electoral Lobby Scores Election Promises of Coalition, Labor, Greens on Women

No party 'fails'. All must do better for gender equality.

On International Women's Day, WEL issued its demands in six key policy areas which we are using to score the Coalition, Labor and the Greens' commitment to women's equality in the 25 March NSW Election.

Check the WEL [2023 NSW Election Scorecard](#) to see how well they are performing.

WEL's assessment is based on our key policy demands in women's housing, domestic violence, health, early childhood education and care, consent education and women's political representation.

NSW WEL Convener Mary O'Sullivan said on the Scorecard launch:

'Since 1972, WEL has held politicians and parties to account for their election commitments to women.

For 2023 we measured each Party's published election policies and announcements and any media statements we could capture.

We scored how well Party policies match our demands in each area as 'minimal', 'some', 'significant' or 'full commitment'.

No party 'fails'. All must do better'.

See our full analysis of each Party's policies [here](#).

'Our scorecard only focuses on the major parties and we haven't aimed to assess every policy which contributes to gender equality in NSW. Rather, we've homed in on specific initiatives which we believe will be game changers in achieving equality and justice for women', said Mary O'Sullivan.

What does the scorecard tell us?

Jozefa Sobski WEL Australia says:

'There is a striking absence of visionary thinking on gender equality. Policies which drive women's equality are scattered across policy areas.

We are disappointed that neither the ALP nor the Coalition in NSW have matched the ambitious policy plans to achieve gender equality that the ALP took in the 2022 Federal Election.

The Greens can be congratulated for consolidating their women's policies. The Coalition has made a start by drawing on feminist economists in the 2022 Budget to link access to childcare with options for women's workforce participation.



Some ALP policy commitments have major positive implications for women's equality and social justice more generally.

A coherent plan for gender equality in NSW would go a long way further in signaling the central importance of gender equality to a future ALP or Coalition Government'.

Mary O'Sullivan comments: 'There is good news across the Parties on Domestic and Family Violence policy commitments but minimal commitments from the ALP and Coalition on social housing and homelessness funding.

Small steps on rental security and planning regulations on government land go no way to dealing with the crisis faced by many women, including single mothers fleeing violence. Housing insecurity and affordability is a major driver of women's inequality.

The Coalition and the ALP have made excellent commitments on expanding access to women's reproductive health. The Coalition lost points through failing to recognize that pay equity is essential for proper recognition of the value of health care workers including nurses.

There is a striking contrast between the Coalition and ALP commitments on early education and care. The Coalition commits to 500 pre-schools and an extra 5000 places over the next 4 years. The ALP commits to 100 public schools and 50 on non-government school sites without specifying the number of new places.

We are extremely disappointed that despite strong calls from advocates and sections of the media, no Party dares to commit to mandate respectful relationships and consent education in the NSW curriculum.

Finally we are very disappointed that the Liberal and National Parties have failed to grapple with their lamentable recent record on women's political representation. No party has begun the serious work of addressing the low numbers of CALD women and Indigenous women in Parliament'.

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