

Crean condemns bias against women

Study affirms need for further action

SYDNEY: A key finding of a 12-month review of the federal Affirmative Action (Equal Employment Opportunity for Women) Act has shown that Australian women still do not enjoy social and economic equality with men.

The Effectiveness Review was established in 1991 to review the Act, which had then been in operation for five years, and the acting federal Minister for Industrial Relations, Simon Crean, issued yesterday the final report of the review, *Quality and Commitment: The Next Steps*.

Although Mr Crean said affirmative action was being implemented in a wide range of Australian workplaces to the benefit of women and their employers, a major finding of the review called for better affirmative action programs to be initiated.

"While political and legal equality has been largely achieved, economic and social equality of Australian women with Australian men is lagging behind," the review said.

"Change of the type fostered by affirmative action is a long-term process. The need for affirmative action remains as strong as when the Act was introduced."

Mr Crean said the report showed affirmative action was benefiting women and their employers.

"It is allowing women employees



Simon Crean: need as strong as when Act introduced.

to reach their full potential, and it's helping companies to make use of all the talents and experience of the workforce," he said. "But at the same time, the review shows that there is a continued need for legislation to encourage employers to ensure that their women have equal employment opportunities."

"The review of the legislation found widespread support among employees and employers for affirmative action to ensure that women receive a fair deal at work."

Affirmative Action director Valerie Pratt said the review had generally confirmed that the Act was working well and helping employers to identify and eliminate barriers to women's equality in the workplace.

But Ms Pratt said a continuing theme throughout the process had been the need to improve the quality of affirmative-action programs.

"Major concerns have been the continuing lack of consultation with women and unions, the so-called glass ceiling inhibiting progress to senior management and board positions and whether enterprise bargaining would deliver increased equality for women," Ms Pratt said.

Mr Crean said the challenge for the next five years would be to translate this commitment into improving affirmative-action programs.

"The success of the Australian economy will depend to a large extent on how well we utilise the talents and skills of all Australians," he said. "It is vital that we encourage women, as well as men, to contribute fully to improving the productivity and competitiveness of Australian workplaces."

The Affirmative Action Act was introduced in 1986 to cover higher education institutions and larger private-sector employers. Large voluntary bodies, elected union positions and group training schemes have also been included.

Jawoyn sign agreement clearing way for gold mine

DARWIN: Jawoyn Aborigines, Perth miner Zapopan NL and the Northern Territory Government have signed the historic agreement, reached this month, that clears the way for a major gold mine to be built.

The agreement was signed yesterday by the Minister for Aboriginal Development, Steve Hatton, the executive chairman of Zapopan, Terry

Strap, and a group of traditional Jawoyn owners from the area of the proposed mine site at Mt Todd, near Katherine, 300km south of Darwin.

Under the agreement, the Jawoyn will drop plans for a Mab-style claim to the site and another claim under the Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act. In return, Zapopan is to provide jobs, training and other con-

cessions. The Government is to hand over title to a large area of land.

The Mab decision by the High Court last year recognised for the first time Aboriginal "native title", declaring dead the legal doctrine of *terra nullius* — the idea that Australia effectively was unoccupied at the time of European settlement.

Last week, the federal Minister for

the Environment, Ros Kelly, gave the environmental go-ahead to the mine, estimated to contain three million ounces of gold.

Zapopan has said the mine will generate more than \$1 billion in export revenue in its 10- to 12-year life.

In front of the table where the parties signed the agreement was a picture of the rainbow serpent —

part of the Aboriginal dreaming. Underneath, in English, was written, "Sharing our country."

In the local Aboriginal language, was written words to the effect: "Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people sit down together."

In 1991, the views of the Jawoyn were responsible for blocking the controversial Coronation Hill mine.

IN BRIEF

Moratorium for foreign owners

BRISBANE: The Queensland Government has given a 12-month moratorium to foreign landholders who have not notified the Foreign Ownership Registry of holdings.

Firms and individuals will have until December 31 to lodge notifications or face prosecution and fines of up to \$100,000, the Minister for Lands, Geoff Smith, said yesterday.

Hold-up in Cooma

Police are looking for a man who held up a Cooma supermarket on Wednesday with a sawn-off rifle.

He entered the store about 9.30pm, tied up the assistant manager and stole a large sum of money from an open safe. The money and the rifle were recovered by police. Later, a man fitting the description of the robber assaulted a Cooma man in his garden nearby.

Police are looking for a man about 1.7m tall, with a dark complexion and stocky, muscular build. He was wearing a black T-shirt with a motif and black shorts or dark trousers.

Horses rescued

SYDNEY: The RSPCA has seized 17 starving horses from a trail-riding school at Lightning Ridge. A spokeswoman said two men had been charged with assaulting RSPCA officers and failing to provide proper and sufficient food.

Chief for STA

SYDNEY: A former Brisbane Transport chief executive, Len Harper, 25, has been appointed chief executive of the State Transit Authority, making him responsible for Sydney's bus and ferry services.

Law tightened to salvage EC-export beef market

By KATRINA IFFLAND, Rural Writer

The Australian meat industry has buckled to European Community demands and will tighten legislation to ensure that cattle treated with controversial hormonal growth promoters are not sent to the EC.

The move is intended to salvage Australia's valuable \$100 million EC-export beef and offal market. From February 15, all Australian beef producers who produce cattle for export by EC-approved abattoirs will be required to provide a vendor declaration form certifying that their cattle have never been treated with HGP.

In addition, when EC-eligible cattle are sold through a sale yard, producers must apply a streak of pink paint on the tail-end of each animal. The onus will be on the producer to certify their cattle, as the application of pink brands by agents is unacceptable to the EC.

Producers who use HGPs will be required to mark their cattle using a triangular ear-mark. They will also

have to sign a declaration form whenever they purchase HGPs from chemical outlets.

Producers found to be using growth promoters in cattle produced for the EC market, but who do not comply with the above requirements, will be subject to heavy fines. The move to implement the strict new measures was made in an effort to salvage Australia's lucrative export EC beef and offal market.

The announcement of the new system follows months of negotiations between Australian groups and EC officials who had long indicated disenchanted with Australia's efforts to police HGP use in export stock.

"The EC banned the use of HGPs in food-producing animals in 1988. In our former identification system," said a senior assistant director with the Food Inspection Division, Philip Corrigan, yesterday, "it was finding animals exported that had been treated with HGPs."

"The Australian industry decided that something had to be done, that

we had to restore EC confidence in the market."

"Previously, only people with animals treated with HGPs had been required to sign declaration forms," he said.

"This system will also mean there are a lot stronger legal penalties for producers who do not comply."

A spokesman for the NSW Stock and Station Agents' Association said yesterday that he believed producers would pull behind the new system, as they did not want to jeopardise the EC market and knew its value.

Australia currently has a quota to supply the EC with 3000 tonnes of high-quality beef. In some years Australia has been granted an additional quota of 1000 tonnes. The value of beef exports in 1991-92 was \$62 million.

The EC offal market is also valuable. Australia shipped nearly 9500 tonnes of beef offal to the EC in 1991-92, worth \$24 million.

The EC will review Australia's new system in April.

McQuestin may have to resign job

HOBART: Media group ENT Ltd managing director David McQuestin may have to resign after a magistrate recorded a conviction against him yesterday for breaching the companies code.

Magistrate Sam Mollard in the Devonport Magistrates Court also fined Mr McQuestin \$1250.

But he granted a stay of the conviction and fine for 28 days to enable the businessman to appeal to the Tasmanian Supreme Court.

Mr McQuestin, who faces being barred from company directorships for five years, pleaded guilty to a charge laid by the Australian Securities Commission of failing to exercise a reasonable degree of care and diligence as a company director.

The complaint related to the removal of \$10,000 from a Westpac safety deposit box on June 13, 1989.

The company money was later used by the disgraced former chairman of ENT, Edmund Rouse, in the attempted bribe of a state MP.

DRINK-DRIVING

Three people were dealt with in the ACT Magistrates Court yesterday for drink driving offences.

Before Magistrate Peter Dingwall, Nicole Bain, 20, of Springvale Drive, Hawker, pleaded guilty to an offence on June 10, 1992, on Redfern Street. Breathalyzer 0.120, fined \$600, licence suspended for four months.

Andro Pavlovic, 30, of Noarlunga Crescent, Bonython, pleaded guilty to an offence on January 16, 1993, on Drakeford Drive. Breathalyzer 0.110, fined \$300, licence suspended for three months.

Before Magistrate Warren Nicholl, Claudette Marie Green, 20, of Wolf Creek, Latham, pleaded guilty to an offence on August 1, 1992, on William Howell Drive. Breathalyzer 0.110, fined \$200, licence suspended for three months.

Polyukhovich granted SA suppression

ADELAIDE: Australia's first European war crimes trial will start in Adelaide on March 1 with the name of the accused and all evidence suppressed in South Australia.

Lawyers defending Adelaide pensioner Ivan Polyukhovich, 76, successfully obtained the suppression order from Justice Brian Cox in the South Australian Supreme Court yesterday.

The suppression also prevented

local news media from reporting yesterday's proceedings despite opposition to the order from the prosecution, the *Adelaide Advertiser* newspaper and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

Polyukhovich faces two trials after Justice Cox last month separated the charges against him, which allege he committed war crimes in World War II. In the trial to start on March 1, he

faces two charges alleging that in the village of Serniki in 1942 he murdered a Jewish woman and that he was knowingly concerned with the murder of 850 other people. The second trial relates to the murder of two Jewish men and a Jewish woman.

Defence lawyer Michael David, QC, successfully argued that publicity surrounding the first trial would prejudice his client's chances of a fair trial in the second matter.

Fake notes circulating, police warn

By NAOMI MAPSTONE

Police are warning the public to look out for a series of counterfeit notes being circulated in Newcastle and the Central Coast.

The fake \$100 bills are distinguished by a blurred watermark and a slippery feel. They have a metal thread running through them, but the white areas of the coloured note have a black powdery substance on the surface.

The serial number on the notes is ZCY976478, but other similar counterfeit notes have been circulated with the numbers ZEX053577, ZEL797610, ZDJ883923 and WDV844625.

Another series of counterfeit \$50 notes has surfaced in the Sydney metropolitan area and in Grafton. These notes are coloured, but have no watermark or metal thread. They

are printed on textured paper and lack fine detail.

Anyone who has received one of the notes should contact their local police and the Currency Section of the Australian Federal Police on 02-286 4000 with details about the identity of the person who passed it on.

The Reserve Bank is offering up to a \$50,000 reward for information which leads to the conviction of a counterfeiter.

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TODAY/SAT 5.15, 7.30pm

BOY OF EVIDENCE (PG)
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TODAY/SAT 12.30, 7.20pm

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