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Gender pay equity central to a fairer society

The Territory Government is marking this year’s Equal Pay Day by raising awareness of Australia’s significant gender pay gap at a seminar today in Darwin.

Equal Pay Day will be held nationally tomorrow to illustrate the 66 extra days women have to work after the end of the financial year to earn the same as men — because women on average now earn 18 percent less than men.

Women’s Policy Minister, Malarndirri McCarthy said the gender pay gap is a significant issue for Territory women and one that continues to be a priority for the Territory Government.

“Territory women currently earn on average $200 less per week than their male counterparts which means that women have much less capacity to accumulate adequate superannuation and savings, obtain loans and gain assets over time,” said Minister McCarthy.

Some of the factors that contribute to the gender pay gap include female-dominated industries being paid much less, part-time or casual employment and women moving in and out of the workforce due to caring responsibilities.

Minister McCarthy urged employers to help make the gender pay gap a thing of the past.

“It is important to educate Territorians about the pay equity issue. Most employers don’t realise that they have a gender gap until they undertake an analysis of pay structures and the problems are revealed.”

Minister McCarthy will open the Pay Equity Seminar at 12 noon, Novotel Hotel on the Esplanade.

To attend this event contact the Office of Women’s Policy on 8999 3873.

For more information on how you can help address the issue of gender pay equity visit www.women.nt.gov.au or www.eowa.gov.au

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