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Media Statement

Discrimination in the workplace - it's good to talk about it

New research shows that the workplace is now the second most popular source of information for people to learn about and discuss equal opportunity and discrimination issues.

A community awareness survey commissioned by the WA Equal Opportunity Commission has shown that after television and radio news, the workplace is an important source of discussion and information for employees

In previous years, television, radio and then newspapers were the top three sources of information.

“The research is showing that workers are more aware about discrimination and equal opportunity issues and want to talk about them,” Commissioner Yvonne Henderson said.

“There is also real value in workplaces that promote equal opportunity and encourage their workers to not tolerate being discriminated against.

“Many employers and businesses now realise the importance of a workplace that is free from discrimination and the advantages it provides in delivering good outcomes for their workers.

However, Commissioner Henderson said there is still more work to be done.

“Aboriginals continue to be seen by the survey respondents (46 percent) as the group most subject to discrimination in today's society in WA.”

This is also in line with the number of complaints from Aboriginals dealt with by the Commission which continues to remain disproportionately high compared to other groups.

Those surveyed were also aware that sex discrimination is still a major problem in society as they named it as the number one ground for complaint they were aware of that the Commission dealt with.

The majority of respondents (89 percent) also said there was a benefit in having an Act which deals with discrimination.

The Patterson Market Research survey canvassed 402 respondents, with 300 from the Perth metro area and 102 from country WA.

**FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENT: Commissioner Yvonne Henderson
(08) 9216 3954 or mobile number 0409 880 544**