



MX (Sydney)

08/03/2010

Page: 4

By: Torny Jensen

Section: General News

Region: Sydney Circulation: 96253

Type: Capital City Daily

Size: 159.00 sq.cms

Frequency: MTWTF--

Wage equality is still just a dream

Torny Jensen

Australian workplaces are sexist, say most women.

A new survey, released to coincide with International Women's Day today, found 92 per cent of Aussie women believed they didn't have equal rights at work.

The poll, conducted by the United Nations development fund for women, UNIFEM, and

cosmetic company the Heat Group, also found 41 per cent of respondents blamed a lack of support at home and demanding domestic responsibilities for not being able to promote themselves at work.

More than half of those surveyed said they felt pressured to take on traditional female roles at home.

This left many women feeling they did not have enough time to

invest in the long hours needed to climb the ladder at work.

The results of the survey come as Rice Warner Actuaries and the Australian Council of Trade Unions data show women are still earning 17 per cent less than their male counterparts, resulting in about \$1 million of financial inequality over a woman's lifetime.

The Heat survey found more than two-fifths of women felt

they'd been passed over for a promotion because of gender.

Kate O'Reilly from UNIFEM Australia said businesses were putting themselves at a disadvantage by not adequately supporting their female workers.

"It does not make economic sense not to have equality in the workplace," O'Reilly said.

More than two-thirds of women felt Australia had a long way to go in terms of equality.