



Gender issues still at work

MANY women still believe gender inequality is an issue in the workplace.

Ninety-two per cent of women in an Australian survey felt they did not enjoy equal rights at work, according to a study by the Mt Waverley-based Heat Group, UNIFEM Australia and United Nations Development Fund for women.

The study, released last Monday on International Women's Day, also revealed 41 per cent of women believed domestic commitments, a lack of sup-

port in the home and the resulting inability to work longer hours were major stumbling blocks to gender equality in Australia.

More than half of the 500 women surveyed also felt pressure to conform to traditional female roles in the home.

Heat Group managing director Gillian Franklin said the results reinforced calls for the federal government to do more to address continuing discrimination against women in Australia.

"I think it's a wake-up call for everyone that most Australian woman still feel inequality in the workplace.

"Programs such as the Paid Parental Leave scheme may help to move these women from the home to the workplace with greater ease. However, it also highlights other issues such as access to flexible hours, the wage gap and access to affordable childcare that are still key issues for women."

Kirsten Leiminger



United front: Gillian Franklin, middle, with employees Renee Rosperich and Katrina Lawrence, who have returned from work after giving birth.

Picture: Ted Kloszynski