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The Presiding Commissioner
Regulatory Burdens on Business Review
Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Commissioner

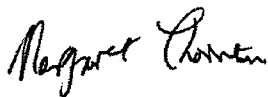
Re: Proposed Change to Reporting Requirements for Employers under the *Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Act 1999*

The Productivity Commission's Draft Research Report: *Review of Regulatory Burdens on Business – Manufacturing and Distributive Trades* recommends reducing reporting obligations in respect of the above Act from once a year to once every two years as it is viewed as an 'unnecessary burden'. I oppose this proposal and request that it not be accepted.

This legislation was already very weak when enacted in 1986 and made even weaker in 1999. To make it even more so would be to undermine altogether the reporting duty on employers. The evisceration of responsibility runs counter to international developments, such as those found in the UK and continental Europe, where the trend is to initiate equality Acts and impose positive duties on employers in order to improve the position of women in employment.

I write as an expert on discrimination and the law, an area in which I have specialised for 30 years.

Yours sincerely



Margaret Thornton