

ON OUR WATCH

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This global event is celebrated annually on 8 March to celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women across the world. It's also a day to raise awareness about the inequalities that confront girls and women.

What does International Women's Day mean to this country and how are we performing? How will history judge our effort and progress?

Australia is a global leader in several global measures including being equal first for access to education. How do we rate for gender equality? The annual World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Index shows a continued decline in world ranking to 50 of 156 countries. This is a drop of six places for 2021 following a drop of five for 2020. We are going backwards.

Australia was once a world leader for inclusion and equality. Future social and economic benefit potential have diminished with our world ranking. We know that gender inequality links to gendered violence. It's time to stop, to reset and to #Break the bias.

Law enforcement agencies recognise the benefit of gender-equal workforces. By attracting more women to policing, we see improvements against all key performance indicators. Importantly, this includes public satisfaction with police.

Men can and must do more to challenged inequality. We need to transform traditional masculinity models across social ecologies. This includes mobilising our communities and supporting change to the ecology by questioning, challenging and engaging. This is not a problem for women alone – we all have a part to play. Law enforcement agencies are community leaders. How will our individual and collective 'leadership shadow' be viewed by those who follow?