

Inquiry into Gender Responsive Budgeting

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Organisation Name: Cardinia Lakes Early Learning Centre

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YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

Cardinia Lakes Early Learning Centre's Submission to the Victorian Parliament's Public Accounts & Estimates Committee Inquiry into Gender Responsive Budgeting.

1 December 2019

Cardinia Lakes Early Learning Centre (CLELC) is an integrated Long Day Care and Government Funded Kindergarten. It is owned and operated by Managing Director Tamika Hicks, an early childhood educator, activist and unionist. Ms Hicks has been an early childhood, equality and feminist activist for 19 years.

Why Gender Responsive Budgeting is important for women and girls in Victoria:

Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) is a fundamental tool for responsible financial management. By addressing the economic and fiscal impacts of the State Budget on women and gender diverse people, GRB ensures that the Victorian economy is serving and benefiting everyone.

Gender responsive budgeting is important for the advancement of women's rights, ensuring government allocates resources fairly in ways that enhance gender equity. It makes visible the different circumstances and economic contributions of men, women and gender diverse people as individuals, rather than within household units. GRB delivers social benefit by ensuring that the distribution of income, assets and expenditure is shared more equally across the community.

Victoria has been leading the way nationally on family violence prevention and investment since the Royal Commission into Family Violence in 2015. With the commitment to full implementation of the RCFV comes an obligation to address gender inequalities across the state. Gendered violence will not end until gender inequality ends, which is why addressing the gender inequalities in the Victorian economy and State Budget is so important.

With the right resources and policy commitment, an economic gender lens should result in expert tweaking of economic and fiscal policy to deliver tailored policy solutions for enduring financial inequities for women and their children.

We at CLELC fully support the need for Gender Responsive Budgets for women and for the next generation we are educating.

CLELC supports in full the recommendations put forward by GEN VIC in their Back on Track: Gender

Responsive Budgeting Submission. These recommendations are as follows:

Recommendation 1: That the Victorian Government adopt global best practice in the establishment, implementation and resourcing of gender responsive budgeting in the State of Victoria.

Recommendation 2: That gender responsive budgeting be aligned to the Victorian Gender Equality Strategy and the forthcoming Victorian Gender Equality Act.

Recommendation 3: That the Office for Women be protected from further machinery of government changes, to enable whole of government oversight of gender equity and gender responsive budgeting.

Recommendation 4: That the Department of Treasury & Finance publish annual data on the gender make up of the department, including the representation of women on the boards of its agencies, affiliates and entities.

Recommendation 5: That the Department of Treasury and Finance establish a specialist gender economics unit to plan, implement and evaluate gender responsive budgeting, to be supported by the Office of Women's Equality.

The gender economics unit should:

- a. be structured, as other Treasury units are, to withstand changes of government.
- b. ensure all economic and fiscal data is collected in a disaggregated way to measure the differential impacts of the Victorian Budget on women and gender diverse people.
- c. lead whole-of-government gender analysis across the budget cycle, working closely with the Office of Women, to develop Gender Equality Budget Statements, with high level analysis of the impact of annual budget decisions, outputs and asset investments on Victorian women and gender diverse people.

Recommendation 6: That Department of Treasury & Finance's Resource Management Framework be updated to include accountability for gender responsive budgeting.

Recommendation 7: That the Treasury Annual Report include a quality performance measure related to gender equality and gender responsive budgeting in its Revenue Management and Administrative Services to Government

Recommendation 8: That the Department of Treasury & Finance support the establishment of a Gender Equality Budget Group, bringing together civil society organisations, gender economic experts within government and the academy to inform the development of gender responsive budgeting in Victoria, including greater transparency, accountability and analysis. This group may also assist in the evaluation and monitoring of the project, by independently assessing the effectiveness of the GRB approach on gender equity in the State.

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