

Data, dollars and democratic deficits- prioritizing women's concerns in Australian fiscal decision-making

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Budget blind spots

- Until the 1980s it was assumed the budgets had same impact on women as on men.

But men and women are differently located in the economy and have different patterns of paid and unpaid work so policies have quite different effects.

- What kind of gender gaps need to be taken into account when analysing the likely effects of budget decisions?

Figure 1: Gender gaps at a glance

	Men	Women
Labour force participation	71%	61%
Employed part-time % (out of all employed people)	10%	22%
Employed part-time with child <5	8%	62%
Full-time average weekly earnings \$	\$1,726.30	\$1,484.80
Full-time average weekly earnings %	100%	86%
Without paid leave entitlement and with dependent children**	10%	20%
Average superannuation*	\$168,500	\$121,300
Average superannuation* %	100%	72%
Year 12 (by age 20-24)	80%	84%
Bachelor degree or above, 25-34 y.o.*	34%	45%
Unpaid care work**	36%	64%
Unpaid housework**	6.2 hours	18.7 hours
Representation in Parliaments	63%	37%

* 2018 figures

** 2017 figures

Source: Data collected by Marian Baird and Andrea Constantin, 2018-19

GRB: A global movement

- 1987 Women's Budget Group (UK, civil society).
- 1995 South Africa's Women's Budget Initiative (NGOs with Parliament).
- 1995 *Beijing Platform of Action* calls for GRB and 2000 *UN General Assembly* called upon governments to undertake GRB
- 1996 Commonwealth Ministers Responsible for Women's Affairs: Pilot
- Researched and encouraged by United Nations, OECD, World Bank and IMF
- Underpinned by feminist research in economics, political science and social policies, etc.
- By 2014, 90 countries had, at different times, adopted elements of GRB.

In 2019, OECD found that 17 governments had adopted elements of GRB and 2 are on the way.



Source: OECD (2019) Designing and implementing gender budgeting – A Path to Action.

Three decades of GRB in Australia

- 1984/85 Australian women's budget pilot, federal level).
- Applied work from economists led to development of GRB theory and practice and policy diffusion through women's advisers' meetings.
- 2003–2013 Women's Budget Statement phased out.
- 2014 National Foundation of Australian Women begins its gender analysis of the budget.
- 2016 – Victoria and the ACT governments initiate GRB initiatives (inc. 2019-2020 Victorian Public Accounts Committee Inquiry). Reintroduction of GRB at the federal level is Labor and Green policy

