

# Part b written report

Sociology, Human Rights



PART B — WRITTEN REPORT Law in Practice topic Groups suffering disadvantages in society: Women Introduction Throughout history, women have always been known to hold less power than men in society. They have always had the role of staying at home and raising children while their husbands worked to provide for the family. However, during the 1960s and 1970s, women started questioning their rights and status in society. Issues such as sex discrimination, workplace discrimination and domestic violence were challenged, therefore resulting in gradual law reforms and the emergence of many organisations and agencies. There are both legal and non-legal responses to the issue of women being disadvantaged in society. Disadvantages and challenges for women Women in Australian society face many disadvantages and challenges, such as gender inequality, sex discrimination, domestic violence and sexual assault. Gender inequality is distinctly shown in the workplace and politics. In 2007, Australian Women earned on average 18.4% less than men and held only 7% of the most senior and highly paid positions in the workplace. Women also only made up 26.5% of the members of the Commonwealth Parliament in 2003. Sex discrimination occurs in Legal Response: Domestic Legislation The main government legislations protecting women's rights include; Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth), Women's Legal Status Act 1918 (NSW), Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Act 1999 (Cth) and the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Act 1986 (Cth).<sup>1</sup> Sex discrimination means to be treated differently or unfairly on the basis of sex, marital status or because of pregnancy. The Sex Discrimination Act aims to eliminate this in areas such as employment, education, goods and services,

housing, superannuation and insurance. Legal Response: International Law  
Legal Response: Government Agencies and Organisations Non-legal  
Response: Trade Unions Non-legal responses to this issue include trade  
unions and NGOs such as the Women’s Electoral Lobby and Action Aid  
Australia. Non-legal Response: Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) Non-  
legal Response: Media Conclusion ----- [ 1 ].  
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