

## Women's Electoral Lobby (Australia) Inc

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### Female friendly policies not just female leadership

The polls tell us that women are more likely than men to vote for Julia Gillard. Women's Electoral Lobby shares in the excitement and sense of achievement felt by many about our first female PM. **But female leadership is not enough to earn our votes if it doesn't result in fairer social policies.**

When will women start being paid the same as men for jobs using comparable skills? What is being done to ensure that child care is both affordable and available when needed? How will many women retirees avoid poverty? What is being done to help sole parents stuck on very mean payments? Will the incoming government pick up on aspects of the Henry review that made it easier for women with younger children to take on paid work? What will health reforms do for women?

WEL is concerned about fairness for all. We call on all major parties to stop the spin, and start addressing issues of importance to women – and men – or lose the trust and support of Australian voters.

“We know women voters will make their judgments on good policy making not personalities, if they are given those options.” Said Eva Cox, chair of WEL Australia, “So we need more details of policies, not personalities.”

WEL has devised a **Feminist Framework** to assess the policies and platforms of all major parties for gender fairness.

“So far, the major parties are not doing particularly well on fairness at all according to our assessments” said Kathleen Swinbourne, Election Coordinator. “We want to see some substance, so that when people go to vote they know that they are choosing a government they can trust to do the right thing.”

Women's Electoral Lobby is calling for all parties to show whether they subscribe to a fair go, rather than just spin and fear.

For further information see our website [www.wel.org.au](http://www.wel.org.au)

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