



## MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 7 April 2009

Lauriston Girls' School has been awarded an EOWA Employer of Choice for Women (EOCFW) for the second year in a row, by the Federal Government's Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency (EOWA).

This citation acknowledges the School for its efforts in the area of equal opportunity for women in the workplace. Lauriston is one of only two schools in Victoria which has been awarded this citation and is named alongside some of Australia's top companies and organisations for workplace policies and practices.

Lauriston's Principal, Meg Hansen, said that the award is a result of many years of hard work from within the School to ensure that Lauriston's workplace reflects best practice in providing equity of opportunity for its staff.

"We are particularly pleased to be recognised with this citation as we believe it sends a very strong message to our students and to the wider community that Lauriston Girls' School is absolutely true to its original mission when it was founded by Margaret and Lillian Irving – to ensure that women are given the same opportunities for lifetime learning and success, that they are equipped to take an equal role in our society and participate fully in all walks of life."

Director of EOWA, Anna McPhee, said the businesses awarded have moved beyond simply writing policies and providing basic flexibility.

"For these organisations, creating equity is about changing culture, changing expectations, breaking down the outdated myths about women and finally valuing the massive contribution women make to the workplace whether they are working part-time or full-time, working from home or in the office, starting their careers or nearing retirement."

The EOCFW citation is awarded to non-government organisations (with more than 80 employees) which have demonstrated that they have policies and practices that support women across the organisation and these have had a positive outcome for both women and the business.

The citation is highly regarded by both the corporate and community sector across all industries.

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**Media Contact:** Gina Bowden