



Date Created: 31-05-2024



Australian Government



**Workplace
Gender Equality
Agency**





Date Created: 31-05-2024

2023 - 24 Gender Equality Reporting

Submitted By:

Independent Health Care Service Pty Ltd 75057369669

Public Reports

Public report documents contains data which will be published in full by WGEA on the Data Explorer. They should, with public report documents, be taken to your CEO or equivalent for review, approval and sign off and must be shared in accordance with the Notification and Access requirements under the *Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012*.

The following three documents make up your Public Report:

- Questionnaire – Public Report
- Workplace Profile – Public Report
- Workforce Statistics – Public Report

Public reports are used for:

- Review, approval and sign-off of the submission by your CEO or equivalent
- Complying with the Notification and Access requirements outlined below
- Keeping an internal record of what was submitted to WGEA for a particular year

Review, approval and sign-off:

The following documents must be reviewed by the CEO or equivalent of each organisation covered in this submission. More information found [here](#).

- Questionnaire – Confidential Report
- Questionnaire – Public Report
- Workplace Profile - Confidential Report
- Workplace Profile – Public Report
- Workforce Statistics – Public Report

Notification and Access requirements

To comply, an employer must do the following as soon as reasonably practicable:

- Inform its employees and members or shareholders that it has lodged its report with the Agency and advise how the public data may be accessed
- Provide access to the public data to employees and members or shareholders
- Inform employee organisations with members in its workplace that the report has been lodged

More information found [here](#).

#Workplace Overview

Workplace Overview - Policies & Strategies

*** 1.1 Do you have formal policies and/or formal strategies in place that support gender equality in the workplace?**

This question asks whether your organisation has 'policies' and/or 'strategies' in place that support gender equality in the workplace and what the policies and/or strategies include. These areas are considered key to achieving gender diversity in the composition of your workforce. If you do not have a policy and/or strategy in place, you will have the opportunity to indicate why.

Yes

Policy; Strategy

1.1a Do the formal policies and/or formal strategies include any of the following?

Recruitment; Performance management processes; Promotions; Succession planning; Training and development; Gender and other aspects of diversity

Provide details:

*** 1.2 Does your organisation have any targets to address gender equality in your workplace?**

A target is an achievable, time-framed goal that an organisation can set to focus its efforts. A gender balance target is a goal for a specific group of people.

No

Workplace Overview - Governing Bodies

1.4 Identify your organisation/s' governing body or bodies

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Governing bodies are the group of people who formulate policy and direct the affairs of an institution in partnership with the managers. The core role of a governing body is the governance of an organisation. Governing bodies:

- *include voluntary boards of not-for-profit organisations*
- *are not a diversity council or committee*
- *are not a global diversity and inclusion team.*

Some organisations have common types of governing bodies. For:

- *private or publicly listed companies – the governing body is one or more directors or a board of directors*
- *trusts – the governing body is the trustee*
- *partnerships – the governing body will be all or some partners (if they are elected)*
- *religious structures – the governing body is a canonical advisor, bishop or archbishop*
- *any other structure – the governing body is the management committee.*

If you share a governing body with your parent organisation, then your governing body is the same as your parent's

You are required to provide details of each organisation's governing body. A governing body is defined as the one that has **primary** responsibility for the organisation's governance. As such, you must only report one governing body for each organisation covered in this report. Please note:

- You must tick the organisation/s this governing body relates to.
- If there are multiple organisations covered in this report you must tick all that relate to this particular governing body.
- If this governing body does not cover all organisations, you should add another governing body after saving this one.
- If you have already ticked an organisation in another governing body in this report, you must not tick it again below.

Organisation: Independent Health Care Service Pty Ltd

***A. To your knowledge, is this governing body also reported in a different submission group for this year's Gender Equality Reporting?**

No

***B. What is the name of your governing body?**

Board of Directors

***C. What type of governing body does this organisation have?**

The type of governing body should be the one that has **primary** responsibility for the governance of each organisation ticked above.

Board of Directors

***D. How many members are in the governing body and who holds the predominant Chair position?**

A Chair is the person who leads and chairs meetings of the governing body. In the situation of rotating Chair position for the meetings, the predominant gender of the people acting as Chairs for the meeting during the reporting period should be used.

X' is a voluntary option to cover members who do not identify as either male or female as defined in the reporting guide.

	Female (F)	Male (M)	X
Chair	0	1	0
Members (excluding chairs)	3	1	0

***E. Do you have formal policies and/or formal strategies in place to support and achieve gender equality in this organisation's governing body?**

Yes

Selected value: Policy; Strategy

E.1 Do the formal policies and/or formal strategies include any of following?

Succession planning for the governing body; Gender and other aspects of diversity

F. Does this organisation's governing body have limits on the terms of its Chair and/or Members?

No

Enter maximum length of term in years. If the term limit does not relate to a full year, record the part year as a decimal amount.

For the Chair: NA

For the Members: NA

***G. Has a target been set on the representation of women on this governing body?**

A target is an achievable, time-framed goal that an organisation can set to focus its efforts. A gender balance target is a goal for a specific group of people, in this case the governing body or board. Targets are different from quotas in that they are set by an organisation to suit their own results and timeframes. Quotas are set by an external body with the authority to impose them.

No

G.1 Percentage (%) of target: NA

G.2 Year of target to be reached: NA

Selected value: Other

Other value: Not a priority

#Action on gender equality

Action on Gender Equality - Pay Equity and Gender Pay Gap

Gender Pay Equity is when women and men receive equal pay for work of the same or similar value, however, it is not just about ensuring women and men performing the same role are paid the same but also about ensuring women and men performing different work of equal and comparable value are paid equitably. This is a legal requirement in Australia.

The gender pay gap is not to be confused with gender pay equity. The gender pay gap is the difference in average or median earnings between women and men and is usually a consequence of disadvantages employees face in the workplace. Gender pay gaps are also not a direct comparison of like roles.

Gender pay gaps are a useful way to monitor the different earning capacities of women and men across organisations, industries, and the workforce as a whole..

Employers need to be actively working to understand and address their pay equity and gender pay gaps. The first step in improving your organisation's pay equality and gender pay gap is to conduct your own pay gap analysis and understand what's driving any differentials

***2.1 Do you have formal policies and/or formal strategies on equal remuneration (pay equity and the gender pay gap) between women and men?**

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This question focuses on the policies and/or strategies your organisation has in place related to equal remuneration (pay equity and the gender pay gap) between women and men. If you do not have policies and/or strategies in place, you will have the opportunity to indicate why. The policies or strategies may be stand alone and/or contained within another strategy/policy.

No

Other

Other: Salaries set by awards/industrial or workplace agreements

***2.2 Have you analysed your payroll to determine if there are any remuneration gaps between women and men (e.g. conducted a gender pay gap analysis)?**

This question focuses on the actions your organisation has taken in relation to gender remuneration. Specifically, it asks if and when you have conducted a remuneration gap analysis and if so, whether you took any actions as a result. If you have not taken any action, you will have the opportunity to indicate why.

No

Other

Provide details: Not a priority. Salaries for some employees (including managers) are set by awards or industrial agreements and there is no room for discretion in pay changes (for example because pay increases occur only when there is a change in tenure or qualifications)

Action on Gender Equality - Employee Consultation

***2.4 Have you consulted with employees on issues concerning gender equality in your workplace during the reporting period?**

Employee consultation is a formalised way to collect information about your employees 'views on the workplace, what is working well and what could be improved. This question

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asks if you have consulted your employees about gender equality issues in the workplace during the reporting period.

Examples of issues can include:

- parental leave entitlements and related processes, like keep-in-touch and return-to-work programs
- flexible working arrangements
- gender pay equity
- representation of women in management
- recruitment of women in non-traditional areas
- sexual harassment or discrimination.

No

Other

Other Details:Not a priority

***2.5 Do you have formal policies and/or formal strategies in place to ensure employees are consulted and have input on issues concerning gender equality in the workplace?**

No

Other

Other:Not a priority

***2.6 Did your organisation/s share last year's public report/s with employees and shareholders?**

It is a requirement within the WGE Act for the relevant employer to:

- make public reports accessible to employees and shareholders
- inform employee organisations about the opportunity to comment
- inform employee organisations of lodgement of public report.

Only select 'Not applicable' if your organisation/s did not submit a report in the previous reporting period.

Yes

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***2.7 Have you shared previous Executive Summary and Industry Benchmark report with the governing body?**

It is a requirement within the WGE Act for the CEO to share your Executive Summary and Industry Benchmark report.

Only select 'Not applicable' if you did not receive an Executive Summary and Industry Benchmark from the Agency last year.

Yes

#Flexible Work

Flexible Work - Support for flexible working arrangements

3.1 Do you have a formal policy and/or formal strategy on flexible working arrangements?

This section focuses on the flexible work arrangements available in your organisation. If you have a formal policy and/or formal strategy on flexible work arrangements, it asks you to specify what this includes. It also asks whether specific flexible working options are available to managers and non-managers in your workplace, and whether these differ for women and men.

- A flexible work arrangement is an agreement between a workplace and an employee to change the standard working arrangement to better accommodate an employee's commitments out of work.
- Flexible working arrangements usually encompass changes to the hours, pattern and location of work.
- If flexible working arrangements are not available to your employees, you will have the opportunity to indicate why.

Yes

Policy; Strategy

***3.1a Do the formal policies and/or formal strategies include any of the following?**

A business case for flexibility has been established and endorsed at the leadership level; Flexible working is promoted throughout the organisation; Leaders are held accountable for improving workplace flexibility; Employees are surveyed on whether

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they have sufficient flexibility; The impact of flexibility is evaluated (e.g. reduced absenteeism, increased employee engagement); Metrics on the use of, and/or the impact of, flexibility measures are reported to key management personnel; Metrics on the use of, and/or the impact of, flexibility measures are reported to the governing body; Flexible work offerings are available to all employees, with a default approval bias (all roles flex approach)

***3.2 Do you offer any of the following flexible working options to MANAGERS and/or NON MANAGERS in your workplace?**

Flexible working option	MANAGERS Formal options available	MANAGERS Informal options available	NON-MANAGERS Formal options available	NON-MANAGERS Informal options available	No
Flexible hours of work	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Compressed working weeks	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Time-in-lieu	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Remote working/working from home	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Part-time work	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Job sharing	No	No	No	Yes	No
Purchased leave	No	No	No	No	Yes
Unpaid leave	Yes	No	Yes	No	No

Flexible Work - Support for flexible working arrangements

***3.3 Managers receive appropriate support to conduct performance evaluations that are not influenced by the work location of the employee.**

No

#Employee Support

Employee support - Paid parental leave

Parental leave policies are designed to support and protect working parents around the time of childbirth or adoption of a child and when children are young. This section focuses on whether employer-funded paid parental leave is available to carers in your organisation (in addition to government-funded parental leave), and if it is, which employees have access to it and how much leave is available.

Some workplaces have developed parental leave policies that no longer use the primary/secondary carer definition and provide equal entitlements to any eligible employee.

Equally shared parental leave policies offer the same type, length and conditions to employees of all genders, who require parental leave, with no distinction between primary and secondary carers.

- If your organisation offers this - you should answer this question with 'yes, we offer employer-funded parental leave to all genders without using the primary/secondary carer definitions.

A **primary carer** is the person who most meets the child's need, including feeding, dressing bathing and otherwise supervising the child.

A **secondary carer** is generally the current partner of the primary carer, the other legal parent of the child or the current partner of the other legal parent of the child.

- If your organisation provides parental leave based on this/these definition/s – you should answer this question with 'yes, we offer employer-funded parental leave (using the primary/secondary carer definitions)'. If your organisation specifically provides maternity leave and/or paternity leave, you should also answer 'yes, we offer employer-funded parental leave (using the primary/secondary carer definitions)'.

Through the **government's paid parental leave (PPL)** scheme, eligible employees receive up to 18 weeks' pay at the national minimum wage. This paid parental leave is **not** the equivalent to employer-funded paid parental leave.

***4.1 Do you provide employer-funded paid parental leave in addition to any government-funded parental leave scheme?**

If you do not offer any employer-funded parental leave (in addition to any government funded parental leave scheme) – you should answer ‘no, we do not offer employer-funded parental leave’

No

4.2 Does your organisation have an opt out approach to parental leave? (Employees who do not wish to take their full parental leave entitlement must discuss this with their Manager)

Yes

Employee support - Support for carers

***4.4 Do you have formal policies and/or formal strategies to support employees with family or caring responsibilities?**

This question asks if you have standalone formal policies or strategies on working arrangements to support employees with family or caring responsibilities, or if you include this item in another formal policy or strategy.

- You can answer No and give details on the free-text box if you only provide informal arrangements to support employees with family or caring responsibilities.

A carer refers to an employee’s role as the parent (biological, step, adoptive or foster) or guardian of a child, or carer of a child, parent, spouse or domestic partner, close relative, or other dependent. If measures to support carers are not available to your employees, you will have the opportunity to indicate why.

No

Other

Other: Not a priority

***4.5 Do you offer any of the following support mechanisms for employees with family or caring responsibilities?**

Support mechanism	Yes, at some worksites	Yes, at all worksites	No
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Breastfeeding facilities	No	No	Yes
Information packs for those with family and/or caring responsibilities	No	No	Yes
Referral services to support employees with family and/or caring responsibilities	No	Yes	No
Coaching for employees returning to work from parental leave and/or extended carers leave and/or career breaks	No	No	Yes
Internal support networks for parents and/or carers	No	Yes	No
Targeted communication mechanisms (e.g. intranet/forums)	No	Yes	No
Return to work bonus (only select if this bonus is not the balance of paid parental leave)	No	No	Yes
Support for employees with securing care (including school holiday care) by securing priority places at local care centres (could include for childcare, eldercare and/or adult day centres)	No	No	Yes
Referral services for care facilities (could include for childcare, eldercare and/or	No	Yes	No

adult day centres)			
On-site childcare	No	No	Yes
Employer subsidised childcare	No	No	Yes
Support in securing school holiday care	No	No	Yes
Parenting workshop targeting mothers	No	No	Yes
Parenting workshops targeting fathers	No	No	Yes
Keep-in-touch programs for carers on extended leave and/or parental leave	No	Yes	No
Access to counselling and external support for carers (e.g. EAP)	No	Yes	No

#Harm Prevention

Harm Prevention - Sexual harassment, harassment on the grounds of sex or discrimination

Key Definitions

Sexual harassment is when a person makes an unwelcome sexual advance, or an unwelcome request for sexual favours, to the person harassed; or engages in other unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature in relation to the person harassed; in circumstances in which a reasonable person, having regard to all the circumstances, would have anticipated the possibility that the person harassed would be offended, humiliated or intimidated.

Harassment on the ground of sex is when a person engages in unwelcome conduct of a demeaning nature of another person by reason of their sex or a characteristic that generally relates to or is attributed to their sex. This also takes into account circumstances relating to an individual's sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, intersex status, marital or relationship status.

Discrimination happens when a person is treated less favourably, in circumstances that are the same or are not materially different, than a person of a different sex, sexual orientation,

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gender identity, or on the ground of the person's intersex status, marital or relationship status, pregnancy or potential pregnancy, breastfeeding, or family responsibilities.

Legal obligations

The Sex Discrimination Act 1984 makes it unlawful to discriminate against a person on the basis of gender identity, intersex status, sexual orientation, marital or relationship status, family responsibilities, pregnancy or potential pregnancy or breastfeeding. It also prohibits sexual harassment in many areas of public life including all work-related activity. The Anti-Discrimination and Human Rights Legislation Amendment (Respect at Work) Act 2022 created a positive duty requiring employers to implement measures to prevent sexual harassment, hostile work environments and victimisation. This is in addition to the duty of care employers have under WHS legislation to provide a safe workplace and to eliminate and minimise identified risks to health and safety.

Under the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 it is also unlawful for a person to subject another person to a workplace environment that is hostile on the ground of sex.

For more information, refer to Safework Australia or your State or Territory Work Health and Safety regulatory body. More information about harassment on the ground of sex or discrimination can also be found at the Australian Human Rights Commission website.

Disclaimer

This section is not an exhaustive description of, or advice regarding the legal obligations attaching to employers. Employers are responsible for understanding the scope of rights and obligations attaching to employees and the workplace.

***5.1 Do you have formal policies and/or formal strategies on the prevention of and appropriate response to sexual harassment, harassment on the ground of sex or discrimination?**

The provisions in a '**policy**' and/or '**strategy**' for prevention and management of sexual harassment is important for setting workplace culture and achieving a safe, respectful and inclusive workplace. Policies/Strategies alone will not prevent harassment and discrimination; however, they can help to set clear expectations, particularly about behaviours at the workplace and during work-related activities.

Yes

Policy

***5.1a Do the formal policies and/or formal strategies include any of the following?**

A statement on the positive duty of the employer to provide a safe workplace, free of sexual harassment; Leadership accountabilities and responsibilities for prevention and response to sexual harassment; Process to disclose, investigate and manage any sexual harassment; Processes relating to the use of non-disclosure or confidentiality agreements; Expectations of safety, respect and inclusive conduct in recruitment materials, contracts and performance management; Guidelines for human resources or other designated responding staff on confidentiality and privacy; Inclusive and

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respectful behaviour is part of regular performance evaluation; How risks will be identified and assessed, and how control measures will be monitored, implemented and reviewed; A system for monitoring outcomes of sexual harassment and discrimination complaints, including employment outcomes for complainants and accused perpetrators

Provide Details:

***5.2 (If you have answered no at question 5.1, please go to question 5.3.) Have the policies and/or strategies been reviewed and approved in the reporting period by the Governing Body and CEO (or equivalent)?**

	Yes	No
By the Governing Body	Yes	No
By the CEO (or equivalent)	Yes	No

***5.3 Do you provide training on the prevention of sexual harassment, harassment on the ground of sex or discrimination to the following groups?**

Cohort	At induction	At promotion	Annually	Multiple times per year
All managers	Yes	No	No	No
All non-managers	Yes	No	No	No
The governing body	Yes	No	No	No

***5.3a Does the training program delivered to the above groups include any of the following?**

The respectful workplace conduct and behaviours expected of workers and leaders; Different forms of inappropriate workplace behaviour (e.g. sexual harassment, harassment on the grounds of sex and discrimination) and its impact; Options for reporting occurrences of sexual harassment as well as the risk of sexual harassment occurring; Information on worker rights, external authorities and relevant legislation relating to workplace sexual harassment; Diverse experiences and needs of different people, including women, LGBTIQ+ workers, CALD workers and workers with a disability; Trauma-informed management and response to disclosures

5.4 Does the governing body and CEO or equivalent explicitly communicate their expectations on safety, respectful and inclusive workplace conduct? If yes, when?

Culture is set and role modelled by leaders – the tone from the top of the organisation should promote an organisation that is respectful, safe and inclusive, and should be backed up by action.

Examples of communication could include:

- Regular agenda items at meetings between the governing body and CEO or equivalent
- Statements from the governing body or CEO in annual reports
- Statements at events or prior to large events (such as work Christmas parties or conferences)
- Regular email communication to staff

Members of the governing body

Yes

The expectations of the governing body is made explicit to new staff at induction

Chief Executive Officer or equivalent

Yes

The expectations of the CEO or equivalent is made explicit at inductions

***5.5 Does your workplace health and safety risk management process include any of the following?**

Sexual harassment is a workplace hazard that is known to cause psychological and physical harm. Managing the risks of sexual harassment should be part of your approach to work health and safety. For more information about sexual harassment as a work health and safety risk, please refer to [Safework Australia's Guide for preventing workplace sexual harassment](#)

Identification and assessment of the specific workplace and industry risks of sexual harassment; Reporting to leadership on workplace sexual harassment risks, prevention and response, incident management effectiveness and outcomes, trend analysis and actions;

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Identification, assessment and control measures in place to manage the risk of vicarious trauma to responding staff

***5.5a What actions/responses have been put in place as part of your workplace sexual harassment risk management process?**

Make workplace adjustments; Train people managers in prevention of sexual harassment

***5.6 From the following list, what do you provide to support workers involved in and affected by sexual harassment?**

Confidential external counselling (E.g. EAP); Information provided to all workers on external support services available; Union/worker representative support throughout the disclosure process and response; Reasonable adjustments to work conditions

***5.7 From the following list, what options does your organisation have for workers who wish to disclose or raise concerns about incidents relating to sexual harassment or similar misconduct?**

Disclosure refers to a formal or informal complaint of workplace sexual harassment

Process for disclosure to human resources or other designated responding staff; Process for workers to identify and disclose potential risks of sexual harassment, without a specific incident occurring

Provide Details:

***5.8 Does your organisation collect data on sexual harassment in your workplace, if yes, what do you collect?**

No

***5.9 Does your organisation report on sexual harassment to the governing body and management (CEO, HOB, KMP) and how frequently?**

Sexual harassment, harassment on the ground of sex or discrimination should be monitored by governing bodies and management. Reports may include prevalence risks, and nature of workplace sexual harassment; organisational action taken to prevent and respond to sexual

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harassment; outcomes and effectiveness of responses, including consequences for perpetrators; and analysis of trends and data in the workplace and broader industry.

Head of Business (HOB):

- the CEO or equivalent of a subsidiary organisation within your corporate group
- an employee who has strategic control and direction over a substantial part of the business, but whose responsibilities do not extend across an entire corporate group, such as the head of a brand within a group.

Key Management Personnel (KMP):

- in line with Australian Accounting Standards Board AASB124, **KMPs** have the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of an entity, directly or indirectly. This includes any director (executive or otherwise) of that entity.
- a defining feature of KMPs is their influence is at the entity level. KMPs are likely to direct the strategic function of their section and are often functional heads, such as head of operations or head of finance. They represent at least one of the major functions of an organisation and participate in organisation-wide decisions.
- for corporate groups, KMPs will have authority and responsibility across the entire structure.

Cohort	Regularly / At every meeting	Multiple times per year	Annually
Governing Body	No	No	Yes
CEO, HOBs	No	No	Yes
KMPs	No	No	Yes
All managers	No	No	Yes

Other

Reported as occurs

5.9a Do your reports on sexual harassment to governing body and management include any of the following?

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Prevalence of workplace sexual harassment; Outcome of reports of sexual harassment; Consequences for perpetrators of sexual harassment; Effectiveness of response to reports of sexual harassment

Harm Prevention - Family or domestic violence

*5.11 Do you have a formal policy and/or formal strategy to support employees who are experiencing family or domestic violence?

This question asks if you have a formal policy or strategy to support employees experiencing this kind of violence. If you answer yes, you will either have a standalone formal policy or strategy, or include this item in another formal policy or strategy.

Family or domestic violence involves violent, abusive or intimidating behaviour from a partner, carer or family member to control, dominate or instil fear. It can be physical, emotional, psychological, financial, sexual or another type of abuse. If measures to support employees experiencing family or domestic violence are not available in your organisation, you will have the opportunity to indicate why.

Yes

Strategy

*5.12 Do you have the following support mechanisms in place to support employees who are experiencing family or domestic violence?

Type of support (<i>select all that apply</i>)	
Protection from any adverse action or discrimination based on the disclosure of domestic violence	Yes
Confidentiality of matters disclosed	Yes
Training of key personnel	No
Flexible working arrangements	Yes
Workplace safety planning	no

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Employee assistance program (including access to psychologist, chaplain or counsellor)	Yes
Referral of employees to appropriate domestic violence support services for expert advice	Yes
Provision of financial support (e.g. advance bonus payment or advanced pay)	Yes
A domestic violence clause is in an enterprise agreement or workplace agreement	No
Access to medical services (e.g. doctor or nurse)	Yes
Offer change of office location	No
Emergency accommodation assistance	No

***5.13 Do you have the following types of leave in place to support employees who are experiencing family or domestic violence?**

Access to paid domestic violence leave

Yes

Is it unlimited?

No

How many days of paid domestic violence leave?

10

Access to unpaid domestic violence leave

Yes

Is it unlimited?

Yes