

## 2009 Clare Burton Memorial Lecture

### A Slow Revolution: Maternity Leave, Women and Work

Why has it taken so long for women in Australia to achieve paid maternity leave – and what happens next?

The 2009 Clare Burton lecture analyses changes in Australia's attitudes to working women by examining maternity leave policies from 1979, when the first *unpaid* maternity leave decision of the Industrial Relations Commission was made, to the government's announcement of a national system of *paid* parental leave on Mother's Day in 2009. From 1 Jan 2010, working parents will also have the right to request an additional 12 months of *unpaid* parental leave and the right to request flexible working arrangements. These are significant, even revolutionary, policy changes in Australia.

What will be the implications of these changes, for employers and for working parents, particularly women?

#### The speaker

Marian Baird is Associate Professor in Work and Organisational Studies at the University of Sydney and Director of the Women and Work Research Group. Her research has focussed on the impact of regulatory and policy environments on women's working lives and conditions. Based on her research, Marian has most recently been a key advocate of paid maternity leave in Australia. She has also published on the impact of regulation on low paid women and the changes to Australia's industrial relations regime.

#### The Clare Burton Memorial Lectures

The Clare Burton lectures commemorate Dr Clare Burton, who passed away suddenly in August 1998. Clare was a leading researcher, public sector administrator, academic, consultant, and writer on employment equity. The lectures are hosted by ATN WEXDEV, an executive development program for women in the five universities of the Australian Technology Network: Curtin University of Technology, QUT, RMIT University, the University of South Australia and the University of Technology, Sydney.

This year's lecture will also include the launch of the book *The Promise and the Price. Ten Years of the Clare Burton Memorial Lectures*. This ATN WEXDEV publication brings together the past 10 lectures in the Clare Burton Lecture series.

**Date:** 5.30 pm – 7.30 pm Thursday 22 October 2009, light refreshments follow the lecture.

**Venue:** The Chancellery, Level 4, [UTS Tower Building 1](#), Broadway, Sydney

**Cost:** Free

**RSVP:** To register, contact [Joanna Leonard](#) on 02 95141274; or [Joanna.leonard@uts.edu.au](mailto:Joanna.leonard@uts.edu.au), by Monday 19 October. Places are limited so registration is essential.