



**\*\*EMBARGOED UNTIL 5AM, FRIDAY 31 JULY, 2009\*\***

Friday 31 July, 2009

## **New service to help disadvantaged women re-enter the workforce**

Minister for Women Verity Firth will today launch a new service which is helping disadvantaged women re-enter the workforce after long-term unemployment.

Ms Firth said *Suited for Work* was a not-for-profit organisation run by more than 40 volunteers in Sydney, which provides free clothing and presentation advice for women dressing for occasions such as job interviews and court appearances.

“This is about helping instill confidence in women who may have been out of the workforce for an extended period and want to achieve self-sufficiency and financial independence,” Ms Firth said.

“*Suited for Work* offers free, individually-styled outfits and advice on how to look your best for that important occasion.

“We know that the confidence gained from knowing you look great has a positive impact on the job-seeking process and in how you are perceived both in the search for employment and in the various important activities women undertake in the community.

“In addition to clothing, *Suited for Work* will offer resume writing assistance, interview skills development and mentoring opportunities in a friendly, supportive environment for women who may need a little extra help to move forward.”

Since opening its doors in May, the service has helped 40 women by providing suits for job interviews, court appearances and to attend funerals.

It has also provided clothing for women returning to the community after a period in a correctional facility.

Many new migrants, referred through Adult Migrant Education Service, who are preparing for employment in a new country, have also accessed the service.

*Suited for Work* clients must be referred by agencies such as employment service providers, community organisations, government departments or other groups supporting women.

Major corporations, small businesses and many individuals have donated a large range of quality clothing and accessories to enable *Suited for Work* to offer this service.

**\* *Suited for Work* will be launched on Friday, 31 July at 4.30pm at Parliament House.**

More information is available at [www.sfw.org.au](http://www.sfw.org.au)

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