

### Lobbyists, lobby groups and lobbying

Lobbyists and lobby groups try to influence politicians and other decision-makers.

Lobbying activities include collecting and publishing information, talking and writing letters to decision-makers, and organising petitions.



### Trade unions

Trade unions are organisations of workers in the same occupation or industry. Trade union members support one another and bargain as a group with employers to improve their working conditions and wages.

### Arbitration Court

The Commonwealth Arbitration Court was established in 1905 to make decisions in disputes between workers and employers. Some of the Court's important decisions about wages are:

- 1907 – men will be paid a 'basic wage' (enough for a man, his wife and three children)
- 1921 – women hat-makers will be paid 54% of the wages of men hat-makers (other industries copied this 54% decision)
- 1969 – equal pay for equal work (where men and women did the same tasks)
- 1972 – equal pay for work of equal value
- 1974 – equal minimum wages for men and women.



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### Equal Opportunity legislation

Equal Opportunity legislation states that it is unlawful for an employer to discriminate against a person because of the person's sex, or because a person is married or single.