

The BroadAgenda: News Brief

This week's radar ...

February Week 3

This week has seen the spotlight on one of the oldest issues to beset women – abortion and a woman's right to self-determination when it comes to sexual and reproductive health. The domestic story focused on Queensland, while Trump's gag order ignited global debate. Meanwhile back home the hot topic of banning the burqa was rekindled in Victoria, while overseas a Swedish government delegation to Iran coped a media thrashing for covering up with hijabs. While many were celebrating Valentine's Day with loved ones, girls in Ethiopia flipped the day into a fundraiser. And at weeks end we're gearing up for a busy International Women's Day with the launch of BroadAgenda.

In the news ...

Australia

[Anna Bligh will shake up banking status quo: former Qld MP](#)

18/02/2017, Brisbane Times

- Former Queensland Premier Anna Bligh has been appointed as CEO of the Australian Bankers Association
- Bligh is the first female to be appointed to the position
- Questions about her appointment surround conflict between the job and former Labor background, rather than her gender

[Labor Government slams proposed law to ban burqas court](#)

13/02/2017, The Herald Sun

- A proposal to jail women who refuse to remove their burqa in a courtroom has been slammed by the Victorian Labor government
- The State Opposition Leader Matthew Guy claims the proposed law is not aimed at any specific group
- Victoria's Attorney general has indicated that the Labour government will oppose any such Bill, if introduced officially into parliament

[Queensland abortion laws could spark court battles](#)

17/02/2017, Gympie Times

- Abortion laws in Queensland are again up for discussion after Cairns MP Rob Pyne submitted a private members Bill on the matter
- At present time, abortion remains an illegal act in Queensland with many women travelling interstate to access services

[The World Has Become A Worse Place For Women. Here's How We Fix It](#)

15/02/2017, *The Huffington Post*

- Reflecting on the last few weeks where legislation from around the globe is becoming harsher on women
- Suggests that Australia in a unique position where Australia can be a force for global change
- Foreign Minister Julie Bishop suggests that *“One of the best indicators of whether a country is peaceful and stable isn't its level of wealth, or ethnic profile or religious identity -- I suggest it is how a nation treats women and girls.”*

[Julie Bishop urged to commit funds to counter Donald Trump's 'global gag rule' abortion order](#)

16/02/2017, *The Courier*

- Prominent Labour Senator Lisa Singh plead for action to taken in regards to the gag order on Tuesday and called Trump's move an “attack on women everywhere”
- *“I understand there is a pledging conference scheduled for around the beginning of March, and I have written to Minister Julie Bishop to call on our government to lend our support to women and girls around the world affected by this global gag rule.”*
- The following day Ms Bishop announced that Australia's funding for offshoot of Planned Parenthood based in the pacific, would continue

[Law Council of Australia tackles gender bias with new workshops](#)

17/02/2017, *ABC News*

- A top female lawyer says even she is not immune to gender biases — including associating women with child-rearing and men with work — as she launches courses for lawyers to tackle the ‘men's club mentality’ in law.
- President of the Law Council of Australia, Fiona McLeod SC, says she surprised herself when testing her unconscious bias
- Face to Face workshops and online courses are being offered by the law council to lawyers across the country

[World Wide](#)

[Sweden's 'feminist' government criticised for wearing headscarves in Iran](#)

14/02/2017, *Sydney Morning Herald*

- Loud opposition reignited the discussion about wearing head scarves on social media
- *“By actually complying with the directives of the Islamic Republic, Western women legitimise the compulsory hijab law,”*
- The actions were likened to agreeing with Trump's view on females

[Giving Women The Tools and Training To Close The Political Gender Gap](#)

16/02/2017, *Forbes Women*

- The US based All in Together Campaign helps provide education, tools and community to women who wish to increase their political engagement
- *“Our mission is to make the tools of political power and influence transparent, and to teach women to use them,”* says Lauren Leader-Chivee, co-founder and CEO.
- The group runs workshops and organises events such as industry specific talks to help women engage with the political sphere

[Utah Republican argues against equal pay for women: It's 'bad for families' and society](#)

19/02/2017, *The Washington Post*

- A Utah Republican has criticised a US bill that addresses the pay gap within the workforce
- James Green said that men have traditionally earned more than women, citing 'simple economics' for his argument, and believes that things should stay the way they are
- Green was forced to resign from his position after his open letter received backlash

Dispatches from ...

[Men can enable gender equality](#)

13/02/2017, *Fiji Times*

- A Fijian government initiative partnered with the Fijian Women's Crisis Centre have organised week long workshops aimed at training senior male civil servants to be advocates for gender equality
- The initiative is designed to help men identify and change their own unacceptable behaviour and then help others in the community do the same

[Ethiopian women use Valentine's Day to promote girl power](#)

15/02/2017, *Africa News*

- Students from Addis Ababa University wore yellow on Valentine's Day to raise money to help poor students pay for university
- With the help of one of the professors, a group of female students decided to start a campaign that could support women and raise awareness about gender based violence.

Footnote fodder ...

[The Travel Insurance Company Tackling Australia's Gender Pay Gap](#)

15/02/2017, *The Huffington Post*

- An Australian travel insurance start-up is offering a gender pay gap discount on their insurance policies
- As Australian women on average earn less than 16.2 (according to the company) less than males, this is the discount that Travel with Jane is offering
- *"By offering a discount of 16.2 percent on all travel insurance policies, we aim to assist women financially, as well as raise awareness and encourage corporate accountability here, and globally."*

[The "A Day Without A Woman" Date Has Been Announced & The Strike Falls On Another Important Day](#)

16/02/2017, *Bustle*

- The organisers behind the Women's March have announced the date for their next protest, a one-day strike called 'A Day Without Women'
- The date is March 8th (IWD)

Up close and personal ...

[Meet Dr Anne Rios, the woman who has developed a new 3D imaging technique for breast cancer](#)

16/02/2017, *Women's Agenda*

- Rios was awarded the Neil Lawrence prize at the 2016 Centenary Institute Medical Innovation Awards for her project
- Profile explores how Rios over came obstacles, including gender, to achieve her goals