Abstract
Why did it take so long for women in Australia to achieve paid maternity leave — and what happens next?

The 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 lecture proposes answers to these questions and argues that the revolution needs to continue—but at a faster pace and with broader impact.

Biography
Dr Marian Baird is Associate Professor in Work and Organisational Studies and the Convenor of the Women and Work Research Group in the Faculty of Economics and Business at the University of Sydney. Marian is a leading researcher on maternity leave in Australia and has undertaken a number of research projects investigating parental leave, work and family policies and women’s working conditions. The results of her research inform public and organisational policy and practice in Australia. Marian has published widely in Australian and international journals. She also teaches undergraduate and postgraduate students at the University of Sydney in industrial relations and human resource management.

Event details
Monday 19 October 2009
5.30 – 7.30 pm
Storey Hall
RMIT Building 16
336-342 Swanston Street Melbourne

Register
Register online with your name at:
events@rmit.edu.au
(Type ‘Clare Burton lecture’ in the subject line)
Please feel free to pass this invitation on to interested friends and colleagues.

For further information
Please contact Amy Love
Tel. +61 3 9925 4210
Email: amylove@rmit.edu.au