

Fed: Survey reveals thoughts about gender inequalities at work

SYDNEY, Sept 20 AAP - Every second Australian woman believes pregnancy will negatively impact on her career, a new survey has found.

A survey of more than 1,000 men and women revealed that 50 per cent of female respondents believe motherhood hinders their prospects for a promotion.

While 68 per cent of women think men are paid more for doing the same job, 64 per cent of men believe the sexes enjoy wage equality.

The survey of 628 women and 399 men, conducted by online employment service careerone, found 40 per cent of both sexes believe gender influences career progress.

The survey also looked at how employees react to stress at their workplace, and found women were more likely to cry than men.

More than half of the female respondents admitted to breaking down at work, while only 13 per cent of men said they had done the same.

Careerone editor Kate Southam said she was not surprised by the results of the survey.

"Women have a lot of anxiety ... it's time companies started to wake up to the fact that in the skills shortage, they can't afford for female talent to get forced out," she said.

"We don't want women to feel that once they've had a child their promotion prospects dwindle and that men have greater access to promotion."

The survey also found that while only eight per cent of respondents preferred a female boss, 36 per cent said they would rather have a male boss.

A remaining 56 per cent said they did not have a preference, which showed gender preference in management roles was becoming less of an issue, Ms Southam said.

"But what obviously remains a big issue is juggling a career and motherhood," she said.

"Employers would be smart to review their internal policies ... to ensure (work-life balance) is accessible to all talented employees and not just those without children."

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