

# NO MORE PREGNANT WAITS

ON March 7 Parliament passed the Justice Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, which repealed a law allowing employers to fire or refuse to hire women who knew they were pregnant when applying for a job.

This was achieved through removing the relevant sub-sections from the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977.

Women facing sex discrimination in the private sector can make a complaint to the Human Rights Commission under the Commonwealth Sex Discrimination Act 1984. However, the Commonwealth Act does not apply to NSW public sector agencies.

The amendment closes that loophole and brings NSW in line with other Australian states and territories.

This is an important reform passed jointly by the Attorney General Mark Speakman and Minister for Women Tanya Davies that was delivered ahead of International Women's Day on Thursday. The removal of this archaic law will open greater employment opportunities for women. It will also provide them with certainty as they manage work and family commitments, or as they look to start a family in the near future.

**Scot MacDonald MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter**