



Speech by

Dr LESLEY CLARK

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

Hansard 11 March 2003

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Dr LESLEY CLARK (Barron River—ALP) (10.17 a.m.): In Cairns, International Women's Day is not a day but a week of events to support women and to celebrate their achievements, thanks to our hardworking local International Women's Day committee, headed by Councillor Deirdre Ford. This year congratulations go to ex-Ansett pilot turned personal trainer Marilyn Marsh-Booth, winner of the Cairns City Council International Women's Day Award, which was announced at a breakfast and mini expo of local women's organisations. Other events I attended during the week included the Cairns Businesswomen's Club lunch, a careers expo for girls and an International Women's Day dinner with guest speaker Geraldine Doogue, who was just inspirational.

In keeping with the Queensland IWD theme this year—Smart Women on the Move—the Department of State Development put on a breakfast workshop, one of 12 across the state, entitled Smart Women, Smart Communication, which I was pleased to open. The workshop included a segment on electronic communication, because ICT skills and knowledge are essential for every modern business owner and employee. The focus on IT for women in business was one outcome of the Smart Women, Smart State project I have undertaken for the Premier over the last year. Also arising out of my work was the announcement by the Premier of the Smart Women, Smart State Awards to recognise the outstanding achievements of Queensland women and girls in the fields of science, engineering and information technology.

It is hoped that the awards will also encourage more girls to participate in these fields because, as the Premier himself has said, 'These smart state disciplines hold the keys to the jobs in the 21st century and it would be tragic if they missed out.'

I was pleased to be able to join my parliamentary colleagues Wendy Edmond, Judy Spence and Lindy Nelson-Carr in Brisbane on Saturday to talk about these awards and participate in the excellent Women's Festival at Southbank organised by the Office of Women, which should be congratulated on this initiative.