



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Wednesday, 8 March 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

International Women's Day

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.47 am): Today we celebrate International Women's Day. I am pleased to be able to inform the House that women in Queensland have much to celebrate this year. More than 55 per cent of our university graduates are female. The Queensland parliament is also a source of good news. Queensland is leading all other states and the Australian parliament in this regard. Thirty of the 89 seats in this parliament are held by women; that is 33.7 per cent. Female members of parliament constitute 27.8 per cent of the Australian parliament, 28.1 per cent of the New South Wales parliament and 30.3 per cent of the Victorian parliament. I seek leave to incorporate details in *Hansard* as a tribute to women.

Leave granted.

Clearly we still have some way to go—our parliament will not be truly representative until half of all the people in this place are women.

Only the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory have higher percentages of female Members of Parliament than Queensland.

My Government recognises the importance of harnessing the talents of female Members of Parliament in the ongoing development of Queensland.

Of the 18 Ministers, the five female Ministers in the Queensland Government make up 27.7% of the Ministry.

This compares with 23.8% in NSW, 35% in Victoria and just 16.7% at the Federal level.

Queensland is doing well, but we need to continue to find ways to encourage women in politics and help them gain the skills and experience for the top roles.

Although only 23% of Senior Executive Service positions in the Queensland Public Service are held by women, there are encouraging signs that this will improve in the near future.

51% of middle management positions in the Queensland Public Service, that is, Administrative Officer Level 6 and above, are held by women. This exceeds the target of 35% set for 2005.

Last year we celebrated the 100 year anniversary of women's right to vote in Queensland.

It's high time all Queensland organisations broke down the last barriers preventing women from having equal opportunity in positions of influence and leadership.

Queensland is a smart state and it's getting smarter by using women's talents in leadership and decision-making.