



Speech by  
**Ian Rickuss**

**MEMBER FOR LOCKYER**

Hansard Thursday, 8 March 2007

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**MOTION: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

**Mr RICKUSS** (Lockyer—NPA) (12.49 pm): I rise to speak on the motion on International Women's Day. I will actually speak to the member for Burdekin's amendment to the motion that recognises international women on 8 March, notes that the Queensland government is celebrating International Women's Day and honours the contribution and achievements of all women in Queensland. I have spoken before in this House on International Women's Day and I do accept that you have to actually honour the achievements of women. Women in the workforce or women who gained the right to vote from 1905 are not the only women who have ever contributed.

Since the beginning of time women have been contributing but their contributions have not been recognised by historians. Women have always contributed to things in the world. Like many other speakers have said we all have mothers, wives, grandmothers and daughters and they have always made great contributions to our lives. Even if women do not own the small businesses, the farms or the large businesses in our areas they still contribute with their backroom knowledge and corporate knowledge. The contribution that the member for Burdekin and the member for Currumbin made to their local communities before they became members of parliament was phenomenal. This is what we really should be celebrating.

My wife, Ann, has contributed much and has always given me assistance. Our party has always supported women and will continue to do so. A Country Party woman was the first woman elected to this parliament. A National Party woman was the first woman minister in this House. Joan Sheldon was the first Deputy Premier in this parliament. This side of the House has always supported women and will continue to support women.

I note what the member for Gregory said about domestic violence not only in Indigenous populations but also in all populations. What goes on is horrific. I am sure every member in this House would like to see that stopped. My grandmother used to have a saying which probably relates a bit to politics as well: 'Love many, trust few and always paddle your own canoe.' I think women should always do that.