



Speech By  
**Nikki Boyd**


**MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS**

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## **PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

### **International Women's Day**

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (2.51 pm): Labor has a proud track record of promoting women, women's rights and equality through our governments. I am proud to be a woman serving in the Palaszczuk Labor government committed to furthering women's issues. I commenced my working life as an early childhood educator, motivated into this career to make a difference. I found it enormously rewarding and fulfilling. There continues to be a crisis in the sector, which is blatantly undervalued but an essential service relied upon every day.

The longer I was working in the sector the more committed I became to doing something about it. So many of us want careers that make a difference in this world and too many of us face the difficult choice of walking away from the careers and the work that we love simply because it is not sustainable to stay. The value of a fair day's pay for a fair day's work just simply does not exist in so many female dominated industries. This is something that I was then and still am now committed to changing.

Working in female dominated workforces must never be an impediment to being able to make a living or not. It is a stain on our society that it is. The more time I spent campaigning in different female dominated industries with my union, United Voice, the more I realised that my story and my struggle was not mine alone, it was a shared story with thousands of others just like me, be it an early childhood educator struggling to make ends meet, a small businesswoman trying to make her dream a reality, a woman in a corporate world who has to work harder to balance work and home life or those who have been left out or left behind by our economy entirely.

We live in a society where gradually opportunity is being realised and equalised, but there is still a lot more to do. I stood as a Labor candidate because even now there remains entrenched and subliminal discrimination in our society. For me, maximising opportunities for women in our community is a step towards creating a healthier, more cohesive society. There is an economic imperative in all of this. We should not exclude through any rule or practice half of our community from full participation in our workforces, businesses or parliaments. To me, International Women's Day serves as a reminder of an ongoing mission and an urgent need. I have experienced firsthand the arbitrary inequality of earning less than my male counterparts with comparable qualifications to myself.

I am pleased to inform the House that our educators are still committed to ensuring that women are taking up the fight because Turnbull and the LNP will not act and seemly will not listen to what is happening in the sector right now. To secure professional wages that value the importance of the work, the Big Steps campaign—which is happening right now in our centres—will see workers walk off the job. On this day a year ago educators in four centres walked off, and this year on 27 March educators in over 80 centres and growing will be walking off the job to ensure that a future generation will get the best quality care that they need. I hope that Malcolm Turnbull and the LNP in Canberra listen to them. I implore people to jump online and support the Big Steps campaign to support our educators. Happy International Women's Day.