

Question on Notice

No. 230

Asked on 28 April 2004

Ms STRUTHERS asked the Minister for Local Government, Planning and Women (MS DESLEY BOYLE) –

QUESTION:

With reference to the Women in the Smart State Directions Statement 2003-2008 and as community organisations in my electorate have inquired about the progress of this statement - Will she provide a progress report on initiatives outlined in this Statement?

ANSWER:

Women in the Smart State Directions Statement (the Directions Statement), the whole-of-Government policy framework for women and girls in Queensland was launched by the Premier in November 2003. The *Directions Statement* sets out the Government's goals, strategic directions and key policy initiatives that will be delivered to Queensland women during the next five years.

Cabinet approved that the Office for Women have lead agency responsibility for driving, monitoring and reporting on the delivery of the Directions Statement over the next five years. The Office for Women continues to carry out this role from within my portfolio of Local Government, Planning and Women under my direction as the new Minister for Women, with the clear objective of "making things better for Queensland women".

The Office for Women has been driving a significant number of initiatives in the *Directions Statement* since its launch. A number of key initiatives are currently being progressed including:

- The second annual Smart Women-Smart State awards recognising the outstanding achievements of women and girls in the fields of science, engineering and technology, are due to be held during Science Week in August 2004;
- Ongoing coordination of the *Coordinating Efforts to Address Violence Against Women* (CEAVAW framework) including the delivery of practical solutions for women experiencing violence such as:
 - The Safe Queensland Women database which I launched this month provides women with one-stop online access to information and resources about domestic violence; and
 - The 1800/1300 provides helpline services with referral mechanisms to streamline service provision for women who contact them. The referral mechanisms will allow women to be referred directly to the most appropriate service, without needing to make more than one phone call.
- The Smart Women Seminar Series - connecting women across Queensland in an environment where they can learn more about key issues, trends and innovations in policy, business and service delivery. The first of these one-day seminars will be held

in partnership with the Department of State Development and Innovation on 8 June 2004 at the Brisbane Technology Park with video-conference links to women in Mackay, Toowoomba and Cairns;

- The Centenary of Women's Suffrage in 2005 will be a key theme for activities during 2005. The Office for Women is establishing a taskforce to provide ideas on how we can celebrate this important milestone in this state's history;

Where it is appropriate, the Office for Women aims to progress and deliver the *Directions Statement* initiatives in partnership with other government agencies, as well as the community and business sector. This approach will ensure the most effective use of resources and will deliver outcomes that are appropriate and sustainable, and will best meet the range of circumstances and needs of Queensland women.

The Office for Women is currently developing an evaluation framework, which will be implemented within the next few months. Once implemented, the evaluation framework will inform the Office for Women on the progress of other government agencies in implementing their key initiatives and commitments for women as articulated in the *Directions Statement*.

I look forward to reporting on further progress, including the progress of other government agencies as they implement key initiatives, and inform the *Directions Statement* evaluation process over the coming months.