

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 790**  
**Asked on Tuesday 17 August 2004**

**MS STONE** asked the Minister for Local Government, Planning and Women (MS DESLEY BOYLE)-

**QUESTION:**

How is the Government recognising the achievements of Queensland women participating in emerging industries, particularly the science, engineering and technology industries?

**ANSWER:**

The Queensland Government is committed to securing Queensland's place as a national and global leader in the science, engineering and information and communication technologies industries. These are the industries of Queensland's future and there are a number of women who are making significant inroads in these fields and are deserving of recognition.

Last year the Queensland Government initiated the Smart Women - Smart State awards as a part of the Smart Women - Smart State strategy to support women's participation in these emerging industries. The awards, now held annually during National Science Week are designed to recognise and reward the outstanding achievements of Queensland women in the fields of science, engineering and information and communication technologies, and to encourage women and girls to pursue career paths in these non-traditional fields.

This year the Smart Women - Smart State awards were expanded to recognise the achievements of women and girls across seven categories, including:

Secondary school students;  
Undergraduate students;  
Postgraduate students;  
Research scientists;  
Women in business;  
Women in the community; and  
Women in the public sector.

The eight Smart State - Smart Women award winners for 2004 announced on 16 August in the Speaker's Green at Parliament House included the following outstanding Queensland women:

- Corinna Smith - a Year 11 student from the Sunshine Coast recognised for her scholarship and interest in space and medicine.
- Sara Tromp - a third-year, University of Queensland Bachelor of Science student, who is part of a team of scientists progressing research into pest and disease control.

- Agatha Brancyzk - a University of Queensland student who was part of the Australian team to claim success for the world's first flight test of supersonic combustion.
- Penny Jeffrey - a final year PhD candidate who has been the first, internationally, to report on the role of a new growth factor in prostate cancer which may lead to earlier diagnosis of the disease.
- Dr Zee Upton - from the Queensland University of Technology who leads the medical research team behind *VitroGro*, a world-first product to speed up the healing of wounds with benefits for patients and the health care system.
- Judith Hewitson - Director of Cicada.net.au who has developed innovative on-line training to meet the needs of Indigenous Home and Community Care and health workers in rural and remote Far North Queensland communities.
- Louise Earnshaw - a psychologist and University of Queensland PhD student who works with community groups and schools to identify at-risk students and develops programs to tap their creative skills for legal gain rather than law breaking.
- Dr Anne Symons - Associate Professor in Dentistry at the University of Queensland currently working on new ways to promote healing and development of teeth and jaws, injured or deformed as a result of trauma, tumors or inflammatory disease.

Many other worthy nominees were highly commended in each of the categories.

Awards across each of these categories were supported through the generous sponsorship from a number of Queensland government agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency, Queensland Health and the Departments of Education and the Arts, Communities, Public Works, State Development and Innovation, and Primary Industries and Fisheries.

I commend the efforts of these outstanding Queensland women who are making significant contributions to the Smart State vision and who are paving the way for many more Queensland women and girls to pursue further study and careers in these emerging and non-traditional fields.