

Question on Notice
No. 1656
Asked on 11 November 2008

MR WAYNE WENDT MP asked the Minister for Child Safety (MRS KEECH)-

QUESTION:

“What is the Office for Women doing to support women in their workplace with negotiating skills?”

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question and for his continuing interest in improving outcomes for women in the workplace.

The Bligh Government is committed to improving women’s capacity to achieve economic security. One way we can do this is the *Smart Women – Smart State* seminar series coordinated by the Office for Women in my Department. These seminars are an important part of our Government’s commitment to deliver improved outcomes for women in education, training and employment.

Of particular relevance to your question are the *Smart Women – Smart State Workplace Negotiation Skills* seminars that are delivered by the Office for Women, in partnership with the Queensland Working Women’s Service. The *Workplace Negotiation Skills* seminars have been presented to more than 220 women across 16 locations, including Ipswich, in 2008.

The seminars focus on obtaining the best outcomes for women by providing expert advice on different communication styles, core bargaining concepts preparing for negotiations and hands-on experience with basic negotiation skills, overcoming common mistakes made in bargaining and using emotional intelligence in negotiations. These skills enable women to take control of their work situation by building effective communication and negotiation skills. Participant feedback has indicated a higher than 95 percent satisfaction level.

Enhancing women’s communication skills in the workplace increases their confidence to bargain on their terms and conditions of employment which aligns closely with the Bligh Government’s commitment to improving outcomes for Queensland women.