

Question on Notice

No. 105

Asked on 17 February 2011

MS MALE asked the Minister for Community Services and Housing and Minister for Women (MS STRUTHERS)—

QUESTION

What is the State Government doing to celebrate the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day?

ANSWER

International Women's Day is recognised globally on 8 March each year. This year marked the centenary of International Women's Day (IWD) and allows us to reflect on the great strides towards equality that women have achieved over the past 100 years. It is also a day to highlight women's continuing struggle for full and equal participation in society both here and across the world.

In celebration of the centenary anniversary of IWD, the 2011 theme is 'Celebrating 100 years of women's achievements'. As part of these celebrations, the *Everyday women, extraordinary lives* online tribute gallery was launched in December 2010 to recognise the many women who are making positive contributions to Queensland communities. Many of the women profiled on the gallery have never before received acknowledgment for their significant contributions to Queensland and this includes those who have gone 'above and beyond' in responding to the needs of families, neighbours and complete strangers in the wake of our recent natural disasters.

The gallery profiles exceptional women including:

- Yvonne Zardani OAM, a passionate advocate for older persons in Queensland
- Danielle Chrismani who co-ordinated a network of volunteers to provide food and support to people in flood affected areas of Queensland
- Fran Vicary whose leadership and standing in the disability sector ensures government, service providers and the broader community are aware of the needs and aspirations of people with disability
- Kathy Noble the founder of Changeling Aspects and a tireless campaigner for the rights of Queensland's Transgender community
- Biotechnologist and molecular biologist Dr Neena Mitter who has made extensive contributions to both the scientific and broader communities, including as an advocate for human rights.

These are just a few of the students, friends, neighbours, workers, leaders, mothers and daughters who are making a difference in the lives of the people they know and the communities they live in.

Across Queensland thousands of women and girls recognised IWD at celebrations ranging from local community, workplace and school events to bigger events including the United Nations Women's Breakfast, the Black, Bold and Beautiful Indigenous Women's Luncheon and the RACQ IWD fun run.

The Office for Women also produces a number of commemorative resources including pins, ribbons, posters, stickers, postcards and bookmarks.

IWD is a significant annual event for women in Queensland and is an ideal platform to celebrate women's achievements and address barriers to their full and equal participation both in Queensland and around the world.