

Question on Notice

No. 111

Asked on 8 March 2011

MS NELSON-CARR asked the Minister for Community Services and Housing and Minister for Women (MS STRUTHERS)—

QUESTION

With reference to the centenary of International Women's Day in 2011—Will the Minister inform the House on the events and celebrations being held to acknowledge the value we women hold in the community?

ANSWER

International Women's Day is recognised globally on 8 March each year. 2011 marks the centenary of International Women's Day and has allowed us to reflect on the great strides towards equality that women have achieved over the past 100 years.

International Women's Day 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 100th anniversary of International Women's Day, the 2011 Queensland theme is 'Celebrating 100 years of women's achievements'.

As part of these celebrations, the *Everyday women, extraordinary lives* tribute gallery on the Office for Women's website at gallery.women.qld.gov.au/home was launched in December 2010, to help recognise the many women and young women who are making positive contributions to Queensland communities. The gallery will remain online throughout the year.

The gallery is our opportunity to say 'thank you' to some of the State's quiet achievers whose everyday contributions often go unrecognised. Many women profiled on the gallery have received little public acknowledgment for their significant contributions to Queensland, including 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 extraordinary women including 11 women acknowledged at the International Women's Day 100th Anniversary reception hosted by the Honourable Anna Bligh MP, Premier and Minister for Reconstruction at Parliament House. These women were:

- Ms Nancy Bamaga
- Ms Janelle Colquhoun
- Ms Meg Davis
- Ms Olive-Tau Davis
- Ms Melanie Gordon
- Ms Julia Hasker
- Dr Ann McDonnell
- Ms Cassie Thomas
- Ms Karyn Walsh
- Ms Lesley Williams
- Ms Danielle Crismani.

Three women from the Mundingburra electorate were profiled on the gallery for going 'above and beyond' in their contribution to their local communities:

- Ms Meg Davis was recognised for her work with culturally and linguistically diverse communities in the region and her instrumental part in the Townsville City Council declaring Townsville a 'Refugee Welcome Zone'.
- Ms Tara Whiteford was recognised as a junior guide leader for Guides Australia, and for volunteering as a rugby referee. Tara was one of four females to referee in the Queensland State Rugby Championships for 2008, 2009 and 2010.
- Ms Ruth Dodd has also been recognised for her contribution to her local community through volunteering for numerous organisations, most notably the Royal Flying Doctor Service for whom she raised over \$300,000 in six years.

Across Queensland, thousands of women and girls have participated in International Women's Day events within their local communities, workplaces and schools through to bigger events including the UN Women's Breakfast; Australian Institute of Management Great Debate; Black, Bold and Beautiful Indigenous Women's Luncheon; and the RACQ International Women's Day fun run.

Since February 2011, the Office for Women has distributed more than 300,000 International Women's Day resources to community groups, workplaces and schools throughout Queensland.

An events calendar was made available on the Office for Women's website to promote community events that were held throughout Queensland to celebrate 2011 International Women's Day. Over 100 events were listed on the calendar for this year's celebration and these can be viewed on the Office for Women's website at www.women.qld.gov.au.

As part of International Women's Day, I also launched the 'Advancing Queensland Women' booklet which describes the priority work for the Office for Women around economic independence for Queensland women and girls. A copy of the booklet is available online or by contacting Women's Infolink on 1800 177 577, Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm.

I thank the honourable Member for her ongoing support of women and young women in her community and across the State.