



Women in the Smart State 2003–2008 **An overview**

Looking ahead – women sharing in the Smart State’s future

Women in the Smart State 2003–2008: Directions Statement sets out the Queensland Government’s vision, priorities and strategies that will enable women and girls to achieve their full potential.

Our vision is for Queensland women to have equal opportunity to shape, transform, access and realise the benefits of the Smart State.

Progress so far

- The *Domestic and Family Violence Act 1989* has changed to extend protection from abuse and violence to women in intimate domestic relationships.
- Changes to the Criminal Code have prioritised women’s safety.
- Industrial law reforms give greater job security to long-term casual employees.
- New child care laws provide a responsive, high-quality and sustainable child care system.
- The *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991* has been amended to recognise the rights of women in de facto and same sex relationships.
- 151,101 women accessed vocational education and training in 2002.
- At 37%, women in Queensland Parliament occupy the highest proportion of seats in any Australian parliament.
- Women now hold 32.5% of Queensland Government board positions (up 23.1% since 1998).
- Women hold 21% of Queensland senior executive public service positions.
- 20 women have been appointed to the judiciary since 1998, bringing the total of number of female judges and magistrates to 29.
- 85.5% of girls now stay on at school to complete Year 12.

Turning aspirations into reality

The *Women in the Smart State 2003-08 Directions Statement* sets out to improve Queensland women’s capacity to:

- achieve health and wellbeing;
- balance their work, family and lifestyle;
- achieve economic security;
- be safe; and
- participate in leadership, decision-making and community building.

Some ways that the Government will achieve this include:

- improving health services;
- providing more flexible and accessible education, training and employment pathways;
- increasing recognition of women as carers, and enhancing services for carers;
- supporting women’s participation in emerging industries;
- supporting women already in business or wanting to start their own business;
- improving housing services;
- implementing strategies to reduce violence against women; and
- encouraging women’s participation in community decision-making and leadership roles through the Get Involved! program.

Who is driving this agenda?

The Office for Women in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet is the lead agency driving the development of women’s policy in Queensland.

It’s working with State Government departments and agencies, the private sector, industry, other governments and community organisations to deliver real benefits for Queensland women.

How do I find out what’s available?

The Office for Women has produced *Women in the Smart State: Services Directory* explaining services, programs and initiatives that Queensland Government agencies deliver for women and girls.

It covers:

- health and wellbeing;
- balancing work, family and lifestyle;
- economic security;
- safety; and
- leadership, decision-making and community building.

Where else can I get information?

Women’s Infolink is the information and referral arm of the Office for Women. It provides a free call service to women all over Queensland, Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm.

Call 1800 177 577 statewide.

www.premiers.qld.gov.au/women

November 2003