

Change for a Better Future

Queensland women have come a long way in recent years. Women's participation in the paid workforce has increased; they now have greater access to parental leave and flexible working arrangements; and access to better health services and education has resulted in improved physical health and economic security. Women are increasingly taking on leadership roles and moving into top positions – within both business and the community.

Yet we recognise that there is more to be done as the issues and challenges for women today change. This will involve active collaboration and engagement at all levels of government and with the community and business sectors.

In order to build these partnerships we want Queensland women to tell us about their issues, responsibilities and opportunities and to work with us to make sure that Queensland women continue to shape and transform the Smart State and share in the benefits of a bright future.

Valuing Queensland's Rural Women

Rural women are the cornerstones of their communities and they make an invaluable contribution to Queensland.

Rural women perform many roles in families, communities and businesses. In fact many organisations would simply cease to exist without their vital contribution. That wealth of experience, knowledge, values and commitment is the basis for shaping the role for rural women in Queensland's future.

The Rural Women's Symposium 'Livability – A Woman's View' is one way for us to discuss current issues, identify emerging issues facing rural women across Queensland and build the partnership between government, business and the community.

The symposium is also a way to harness the wisdom and enthusiasm of rural women. It will see the development of ideas and solutions that improve the livability of rural communities.

Listening to rural women through consultation and partnering is a vital part of creating positive changes for rural communities.

Collaborating with Queensland's Rural Women

The Bligh Government is committed to meeting challenges in areas where Queensland women still experience the greatest under-representation, inequality and need.

Through the Office for Women, we have been working to deliver a better future for all Queensland women by delivering on the goals and targets outlined in the Women in the Smart State Direction Statement 2003-2008.

Input from the Rural Women's Symposium will build on issues identified and outlined in the Directions Statement and reported against in the Rural Women's Report Card. These are:

- improving women's health and wellbeing
- promoting opportunities to help women balance their work, family and lifestyle
- improving women's capacity to achieve economic security
- enhancing women's safety
- increasing women's participation in leadership, decision-making and community building

Through Blueprint for the Bush, the 10-year plan to build a sustainable, liveable and prosperous rural Queensland, we have been working with rural women to improve the quality of life for rural Queensland women, and the lives of their families and their local communities.

The Rural Women's Symposium 'Livability – A Woman's View' is part of the Blueprint for the Bush Strategy – led by the Queensland Government in partnership with AgForce Queensland. The symposium and regional consultations have been coordinated by the Office of Rural and Regional Communities in partnership with the Office for Women.

Information gathered at the symposium will be used to develop projects and initiatives to support the attraction, re-attraction and retention of women into rural communities. Most importantly, it will be used for projects and initiatives that will build a sustainable future.

This vision can only be achieved through collaboration between the Queensland Government and Queensland's rural women. Your experience, your knowledge and your views are vital if we are to succeed in meeting the opportunities and challenges faced by women and girls across the State.



Rural Women's Report Card Key Contacts

The following is a selection of key contacts referenced in this report card.

Office for Women

Women's Infolink

(free information and referral service)
Phone: 1800 177 577 free call statewide
Monday to Friday 8am - 6pm
Telephone Interpreter Service: 13 14 50
TTY (07) 3877 8226
Web: www.women.qld.gov.au
Email: info@women.qld.gov.au

Blueprint for the Bush

Phone: 1800 136 851 toll free within Australia or (07) 3008 8687
Web: www.localgovernment.qld.gov.au
Email: blueprint@dlgrs.qld.gov.au

Mobile Women's Health Service

Phone:
Cairns North - (07) 4046 8533
Cairns South - (07) 4046 8533
Charleville - (07) 4656 8100
Dalby - (07) 4669 0517
Goomeri - (07) 4168 4025
Longreach - (07) 4658 3344
Mackay - (07) 4968 3917
Maryborough - (07) 4122 8726
Mt Isa - (07) 4744 7154
Rockhampton - (07) 4920 5555
Roma - (07) 4624 2798
Thursday Island - (07) 4069 0413
Toowoomba - (07) 4631 6809
Townsville - (07) 4778 9600
Weipa - (07) 4090 6222
Web: www.health.qld.gov.au/cervicalscreening/women/mobile.asp

Royal Flying Doctor Service -

(including Rural and Remote Women's Health program)

Phone:
Brisbane Base - (07) 3860 1100
Bundaberg Base - (07) 4131 3000
Cairns Base - (07) 4040 0444
Charleville Base - (07) 4654 1233
Longreach Base - (07) 4658 1928
Mt Isa Base - (07) 4743 2800
Rockhampton Base - (07) 4921 2221
Townsville Base - (07) 4775 3111
Web: www.flyingdoctor.org.au

Health Contact Centre – 13 HEALTH

Phone: 13 43 25 84 (24 hours 7 days)

Sexual health and hepatitis C websites

Adult web: www.health.qld.gov.au/sexhealth
Teen web: www.istaysafe.com

BreastScreen Queensland

Phone: 13 20 50
Web: www.health.qld.gov.au/breastscreen

Women's Health Queensland Wide

Phone: 1800 017 676 (toll free outside Brisbane) or (07) 3839 9988 (Brisbane area)
Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.00pm, except Wed 12.30pm-5.00pm
TTY - (07) 3831 5508 A telephone interpreting service can be arranged.
Web: www.womhealth.org.au

Family Planning Queensland

Phone: (07) 3250 0240
Web: www.fpq.com.au

Children by Choice

Phone: General enquiries - (07) 3357 5570
Counselling Information and Referral -
(07) 3357 5377 (Brisbane area) 1800 177 725
(toll free outside Brisbane) Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.00pm

“Feeling Good”

Young Women and Smoking and
Young Women and Alcohol
Web: www.feelinggood.com.au

Department of Employment and Industrial Relations

Web: www.deir.qld.gov.au

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

Phone: 1300 369 925
Web: www.deir.qld.gov.au/employment/programs/sqw

Wageline

Phone: 1300 369 945
Web: www.wageline.qld.gov.au

Workplace Rights Hotline

Phone: 1300 737 841
Web: www.workplacerrights.qld.gov.au

Employment

Phone: 1300 369 925
Web: www.deir.qld.gov.au/employment

Disability Services Queensland

Phone: 1800 177 120 (toll-free within Australia)
TTY: (07) 3896 3471 or 1800 010 222
(toll-free within Australia)
Web: www.disability.qld.gov.au
Email: disabilityinfo@disability.qld.gov.au

Carer Business Discount Card

Phone for carers: 13 13 04 Monday to Friday, 8.00 am-6.00 pm
Phone for businesses: (07) 3224 8747 Monday to Friday, 9.00 am-5.00 pm
Web: www.qld.gov.au/carercard
Email: cardservices@smartservice.qld.gov.au

Department of Communities

Phone: 13 13 04 TTY: (07) 3012 8655
Web: www.communities.qld.gov.au
Email: enquiries@communities.qld.gov.au

Homeless Person's Information Queensland (HPIQ)

Phone: 1800 47 47 53 (toll-free within Australia);
24 hours, 7 days
TTY: 1800 010 222 (toll-free within Australia)
Email: hpiq@communities.qld.gov.au

Seniors Legal and Support Service

Phone:
Brisbane - (07) 3254 1811
Cairns - (07) 4031 7179
Hervey Bay - (07) 4124 6863
Toowoomba - (07) 4616 9700
Townsville - (07) 4721 5511
Web: www.communities.qld.gov.au/seniors/legal-support

Child Care Information Service

Phone: 1800 637 711 (toll-free statewide);
24 hours 7 days
Email: ccis@qld.gov.au

Queensland Working Women Service

Phone: 1800 621 458 (toll-free outside Brisbane) or
(07) 3211 1440 (Brisbane area)
Web: www.qwws.org.au
Email: qwws@qwws.org.au

Legal Aid Queensland

Phone: 8.00am-5.30pm Monday-Friday:
Client Information Line - 1300 65 11 88
Indigenous Information Line - 1300 65 01 43
TTY: 07 3238 3023
Web: www.legalaid.qld.gov.au

Queensland Police Service

Phone:
Crime Stoppers – 1800 333 000 toll-free
24 hours 7 days
Emergencies – 000
Web: www.police.qld.gov.au
Station locator tool available at:
www.police.qld.gov.au/station-locator/browse.asp

DV Connect

Womensline - crisis counselling and safe refuge
Phone: 1800 811 811 toll-free, 24 hours, 7 days
Mensline - counselling, support, information
Phone: 1800 600 636 toll-free, 9am - midnight,
7 days
Web: www.dvconnect.org
Email: mail@dvconnect.org