



# bright future - shining stars

## **Karin Finsterle**

*Director, Office for Women*

When we proposed the idea for this event today, we really didn't have any idea of the level of interest from girls around the state. We thought that at exam time we might be lucky enough to get 30 of you to join us today but as you can see, we have well and truly filled the room and there were another 70 people on the waiting list. What this shows us is that there are many, many girls in Queensland like you, who are interested in careers in science, engineering and information technology, who also want to hear the stories of some interesting women who are already on the path that you are thinking about taking. Either that or you really needed a break from studying! And what we will show you today is that contrary to some popular misconceptions, careers in these industries are not only well-paid and creative, they also really make a difference in the community. There are also not nearly enough women and girls in science, engineering and ICT and the Office for Women is committed to changing that. The Smart Women - Smart State Awards, which follows this event, recognises the amazing achievements of Queensland women in these fields. I know that about 30 of you will join us for the award ceremony, which is great to hear. For the high school student and undergraduate award categories, I really hope that you might be inspired today to enter next year in one of those categories. Today, please take the opportunity to ask lots of questions and talk to the other students and the panellists. On behalf of the Office for Women, I'd like to very much thank our MC today, Dr. James Moody, who's given his own time to guide the discussion and to our three wonderful panellists, Miranda, Melissa and Jennifer. And finally, thanks to our sponsor today, the Queensland Government's Department of the Premier and Cabinet, which has enabled this event to happen through its generosity and support for Queensland's stars of the future. That's you!



**Queensland  
Government**

An Office for Women initiative  
[www.women.qld.gov.au](http://www.women.qld.gov.au)

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