



# bright future – shining stars

## **Ros Walker**

*Executive Director, Social Policy, Department of the Premier and Cabinet*

*Event sponsors*

The Department of Premier and Cabinet is very, very pleased to be sponsoring this event today, *Bright Future - Shining Stars*. There's interesting statistics, that back up today's event. Women constitute, obviously over 50% of the Queensland population but only about one third of the state's science, engineering and technology workforce. Females are similarly under-represented in related subjects at high school and university. There's boundless opportunities out there and we need to look at how women can take up those opportunities. The Department of the Premier and Cabinet is working closely with a number of government agencies to address this imbalance by increasing opportunities for girls and women in these industries. The government recently announced a new program. *Women in Hard Hats*. I just love that name. This program encourages the participation of women in non-traditional employment areas, such as mining, construction, science and technology. It's vitally important that Queensland girls have every opportunity while they're at school to discover their potential for a future career in science, engineering or technology industries. For this reason, my department, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, wanted to be involved in this afternoon's event. It's wonderful to see so many of you here today, interested in a future career in these industries. It gives us hope. I hope this afternoon gives you an opportunity to listen and ask questions of our panel members, who, as very impressive women, have forged successful careers in these industries. Thank you very much.



**Queensland  
Government**

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

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