

## **The Smart Women – Smart State Taskforce and the Smart Women – Smart State Action Plan 2006 – 2009**

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*“The Smart State Strategy is the Queensland Government’s signature policy to create a state where knowledge, creativity and innovation drive economic growth to improve prosperity and quality of life for all Queenslanders.”*  
**Anna Bligh MP, Premier of Queensland, Smart State Strategy: Queensland’s smart future 2008 – 2012**

### **Women in Science, Engineering and Technology**

The Queensland Government is committed to enhancing girls' and women's participation in Queensland's emerging industries, particularly science, engineering and technology (SET). These areas have traditionally been male-dominated and there is the capacity for women to make important contributions to these professions, and to Queensland.

The Queensland Government’s *Smart Women – Smart State Strategy* seeks to promote women’s participation in all areas of employment in SET industries, particularly in areas where women continue to be under-represented. By expanding the career pathways for women, SET industries will benefit from greater workforce diversity.

### **The Smart Women – Smart State Taskforce**

In 2005 the *Smart Women - Smart State Taskforce* (the Taskforce) was established to provide advice to the Queensland Government including identifying strategies, providing guidelines and principles, and recommending actions and deliverable outcomes on education, employment and training issues pertaining to women in SET in Queensland. The Taskforce was established for a period of four years (2005-2009).

### **The Smart Women – Smart State Science, Engineering and Technology Action Plan**

Through research, discussion and consultation, the Taskforce has developed the *Smart Women - Smart State Science, Engineering and Technology Action Plan* (2006-2009) (SET Action Plan). The 12 point Action Plan will both build on current initiatives and implement new and innovative ideas to reach its goals. A background concept paper – *Supporting Women's Participation in Emerging Industries: Science, Engineering and Technology* – has been developed to accompany the Action Plan.

The actions in the Action Plan have been grouped under the four key goals below. Through raising the profile of science, engineering and technology, promoting pathways into SET education and careers, fostering cross-sectoral partnerships, and measuring success, the SET Action Plan will help advance women’s role in these important industries.

#### Goal One: Profiling

*To raise awareness among women and girls and increase their exposure to educational and employment opportunities in the engineering, science and technology fields.*

#### Goal Two: Partnerships

*To foster collaborative partnerships between Government, industry, educational and community organisations to deliver improved outcomes for women and girls considering or undertaking SET careers.*

#### Goal Three: Pathways

*To promote better pathways for women and girls to transition between schooling, further education, training and employment (including career breaks) in SET industries.*

#### Goal Four: Progress

*To monitor and measure the achievements of strategies for the enhancement of women's and girls' participation in SET.*

### **Taskforce Membership**

The Taskforce has representatives from each of the science, engineering and technology fields, from tertiary institutions and from the public and private sector. It is chaired by Ms Else Shepherd, an electrical engineer, whose career has covered a range of roles in industry, including teaching, research, control systems and communications. Taskforce members are:

- Ms Else Shepherd (Chair), Director, Mesaplexx Pty Ltd
- Ms Karin Baxter, Practice Leader - HR Strategy and OD, BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance
- Ms Leeanne Bond, Director, Breakthrough Energy
- Associate Professor Margaret Greenway, Griffith University
- Professor Susan Hamilton, University of Queensland
- Ms Karen Heck, Executive Director, Heck Group
- Dr Jennifer Riesz, Senior Analyst, ROAM Consulting
- Ms Barbara Tobin, President, Women in Technology.

The Taskforce also includes government representation from:

- Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- Department of Education, Training and the Arts
- Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
- Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry
- Office of the Public Service Commissioner.

### **Further Information**

For further information about the *Smart Women – Smart State Taskforce* and their work in enhancing women's participation in emerging industries, please contact the Office for Women:

Phone (07) 387 20751

Email [info@women.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@women.qld.gov.au)

Web <http://www.women.qld.gov.au/work-and-life/smart-state-strategy/>