

Women cast the net wide to offer support

Collaboration, appreciation and empathy are some of the strengths the Women's Network can offer all members of the Service.

The Women's Network encourages people within the QPS to get out and start networking, sharing information and learning from each other.

Graphic Designer Wendy James, who was recently inducted as a Women's Network coordinator, said there was so much to learn about the QPS.

"I was one of those people who could sit in my area and have no idea what was going on in the rest of the building," Ms James said.

"When I heard the Women's Network was looking for more members, I jumped at the chance. I am all for empowering and supporting women and men in our organisation.

"As coordinator, primarily my role is to provide advice, support, encouragement and information on a variety of subjects such as entitlements, pregnancy packages, part-time work arrangements, mentoring and careers advice. A lot of people think we only offer our services to women but that is not true; we are here to help everyone in the QPS."

Ms James attended the Women's Network Training Symposium held recently at Redland Bay. She said the symposium provided a wonderful opportunity to meet new people, make new connections and discover more about her new role.

"Delegates travelled from different locations across Queensland with the common goal of actively promoting and supporting the Women's Network.

"Throughout the week our days were filled with a variety

of inspirational speakers and presenters, as well as experiential and artistic activities that were used as a catalyst for communication, inquiry and reflection."

Cathryn Lloyd from Maverick Minds was one of the facilitators at the symposium and coordinated creative and interactive workshops. During one of her workshops participants collaborated on a painting where they expressed their creative visions for the network. The final result was a beautiful visual representation, and each member was able to take a piece away with them as a tangible reminder of their connection to the network.

The Women's Network's main aims are to promote efficiency and effectiveness by assisting women to develop the knowledge and skills necessary for full participation in a merit environment, and to provide an avenue to management for information



Women's Network members add last minute touches to their vision for the future.

and advice on matters affecting women in the Service.

"The network provides a great opportunity for women to break down the barriers and interact with people of all ranks and levels within the QPS," Ms James said.

"It's about highlighting awareness throughout the QPS and making change happen. We are here to provide support and assistance to other women in the network, but also as individuals ready to inspire and support all women and men throughout the QPS."

Current projects for the Women's Network include SWIRL (Supporting Women In Remote Locations), the Senior Women's Forum and International Women's Day.

Visit the Bulletin Board [<http://intranet.qldpol/QPS/CSV/hrd/hrmb/edu/target/women/Purple+Pages.htm>] for further information about the Women's Network.

By Michelle Fleming,
Media and Public Affairs Branch

The role of women in the QPS has come a long way. We are a far better organisation for that. One of the positive areas of activity in that regard is the annual Women's Network Training Symposium. I recently had the pleasure of attending this year's conference dinner at Redland Bay.

I am always grateful for the good work performed by the network and its members. I thank the women who re-nominated for coordinator positions and congratulate those who have been elected to the position for the first time. It is clear from discussions during the dinner that the QPS Women's Network will continue its active and supportive role for all members in our organisation.

Commissioner Bob Atkinson



Participants of the Women's Network Training Symposium had the opportunity to meet, network and learn more about their roles.