



2009 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Presented at the QWIPS Annual General Meeting, Wednesday 5 May 2010
Parliamentary Annexe, Brisbane

Queensland Women in the Public Sector (QWIPS) is the network for Queensland women working in the public sector. It was formed in 1982 to promote the status of women employed in government.

QWIPS aims to provide a valued forum through which women's leadership is encouraged, career and personal development are actively supported and issues relating to women's working lives are articulated.

An annually elected Management Committee leads the organisation and coordinates an annual program of activities such as networking functions, development workshops, a mentoring program and topical seminars. The committee comprise individuals working across diverse public sector agencies and provide valuable time, effort and skills in running the organisation.

The year 2009 provided us with the opportunity to take stock of our resources and capacity as a volunteer-based organisation. Primarily the focus was on reviewing the operational plan and reassessing key programs and activities.

Our role as a network organisation continued to be enmeshed in a highly challenging, unsettling and busy year both for the public sector and our members and colleagues. The significantly changing environment that we work in had been made more dynamic by machinery of government changes that directly impacted on our links with key partners and our capacity to build on existing relationships with various agencies across the sector.

QWIPS ably rolled out the 2009 Women to Leadership Mentoring Program sustained by the contribution of individual members of the Management Committee, the Working Group and our colleagues and friends from subscribing public service agencies.

Our financial viability has also been a key element in sustaining the organisation however made difficult by the resignation of our elected treasurer and [despite concerted efforts] our inability to find a replacement up until recently when Ms Glenda Sacre stepped-up to provide assistance.

Some of the highlights of the year included:

- Participation at the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
– Australia International Women's Day Breakfast. QWIPS presented a

donation of \$1500 to the Brisbane UNIFEM Committee to support women's development projects in the Asia-Pacific Region.

- Representation and active participation at the Cancer Screening Services Reference Group.
- Involvement as a lender organisation to KIVA – a micro finance non-government organisation affiliated with the United Nations. Our humble investment of \$200 has assisted Kiva to connect people, by lending to individual entrepreneurs across the globe, for the sake of alleviating poverty.
- Implementation of the 2009 Women to Leadership Mentoring Program with 76 participants from over 21 agencies across the public service.
- Continued distribution of the resource and storybook, *Stepping Up: Developing leadership practice through mentoring*. This publication launched in 2008 by Her Excellency, the Queensland Governor, is a result of an appreciative evaluation of the QWIPS Women to Leadership Mentoring Program.
- Review of the QWIPS Operational Plan and drafting of the new 2010-2013 Operational Plan, including a reassessment of programs and activities.

2009 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (As at 4 May 2010)

Office Bearers

Lou De Castro Myles (President), Department of Education and Training
Kathy Schaefer (Vice-President), Department of Infrastructure and Planning
Debra Wockner (Secretary), Department of Education and Training
Glenda Sacre (Acting Treasurer), Department of transport and Main Roads

Committee Members

Brenda Meehan, CorpTech
Debra McKenna, Queensland Rail/Rio Tinto
Frances Brown, Queensland Rail
Lindy Freeman, Queensland Rail
Dawn Galvin, Public Service Commission
Helen Bogiatzis, Queensland Parliamentary Service
Cathy Hazzard, Department of Education and Training
Michelle Burgess, Queensland Fire and Rescue Service