



Speech by


**Jann Stuckey**

**MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN**

Hansard Tuesday, 8 March 2011

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## **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (12.14 pm): Today marks the celebration of the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day. On this day every year we take time to reflect on the economic, social, political and cultural achievements of women around the world. I am proud that my party, the LNP, and its predecessors, the Liberal and National parties, led the charge for women to enter politics in Queensland. In 1991, some 20 years ago, the LNP's Joan Sheldon became the first woman to lead a political party in Queensland and followed by becoming the first female Deputy Premier and first female Treasurer of our state in 1996. Significantly, Joan Sheldon was also the first woman in our state to act as the Premier of Queensland. In 1986 the LNP's Yvonne Chapman became the first woman ever to be appointed to cabinet when she became minister for family services. However, Irene Longman, almost reverently, holds the title of the first woman to be elected to our state parliament in 1929 from our side of politics.

I was honoured to be invited to join the Women's Health Inc. at the UN breakfast this morning at the Great Hall of the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. Over 1,000 women and a few men, including Brisbane Lord Mayor Campbell Newman, saluted the achievements of women. Guest speaker Justice Unity Dow, the first female justice appointed to the High Court of Botswana, conveyed a simple yet powerful message: if all is going well for you, then extend a hand of help to others, and that success comes through circumstances. In Unity's case, it was parental belief in education and the government's investment in these resources that helped her to prosper. The inimitable Margaret Thatcher was less subtle though when she said, 'If you want something said, ask a man; if you want something done, ask a woman.' In 1996 it was the LNP that introduced paid maternity leave for women in the public sector—the first time ever it had been introduced into Queensland's public sector. Labor promised this but never delivered. It was also the LNP that established and funded the stand-alone Queensland Anti-Discrimination Commission. I congratulate all women on International Women's Day.