



## International Women's Day (IWD)

Thursday 8 March is International Women's Day. Many schools and branches commemorate the occasion with functions. The QTU will be celebrating with women Union Reps following the Union Rep Conference, when our special guest will be Brisbane-based comedian Mel Buttle.

The QTU are also pleased to have been invited to attend and support the department's IWD celebrations in Brisbane.

As with last year, the state government has provided a range of resources that can be ordered or downloaded, including posters, invitations and certificates of appreciation.

<https://www.communities.qld.gov.au/campaign/queensland-womens-week>

<https://www.qld.gov.au/about/about-queensland/history/women/right-to-vote>

## Women's march

**MEANJIN/BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY RALLY & MARCH 2018**

**LEAVE NO WOMAN BEHIND**

**SATURDAY 10 MARCH – 1PM**  
**EMMA MILLER PLACE**  
Located off Roma Street

**ALL WELCOME**

For more than 100 years women across the globe have marked 8 March as International Women's Day (IWD):

- > to celebrate our achievements, to build our international links and our relationships with allies.
- > to reflect on progress and on how far we have yet to go to build women's liberation.

Women's liberation means ALL women, all classes, all backgrounds, from all countries and all cultures.

- > In 1908, 2000 women garment workers marched through New York City for improved pay, shorter hours and the right to vote. This day was begun by working class women who organised through their trade unions and socialist organisations.
- > In 1910, at the second International Conference of Working Women, delegate Clara Zetkin successfully moved for an international Women's Day to be celebrated on the same day in every country, every year.
- > In 1911, the day was commemorated by Austria, Germany, Denmark, Switzerland and some other European countries. <http://www.isis.aust.com/iwd/stevens/contents.htm>
- > The first Australian IWD was held in 1928 in Sydney. In 1975 the United Nations recognised IWD.

*IWD began in protest and political activism.*  
**TO WIN, WE NEED TO CONTINUE OUR POLITICAL ACTIVISM.**

Updates at [www.facebook.com/IWDbrisbane](http://www.facebook.com/IWDbrisbane)

On Saturday 10 March (State Council Day), an IWD rally/march is taking place in Brisbane from 1pm at Emma Miller Place.

If you are in Brisbane, please come along with your friends and march with your Union.

Guest speakers at the rally include QCU General Secretary Ros McLennan.

The QTU has formally endorsed this event.

## QTU branch and area council – Women’s Contact position

A new resource is available to assist branch and area council Women’s Contacts. It has a range of ideas to assist women in these positions. Please note the recommendation that a report from these positions form part of the meetings’ standing orders, to ensure that women’s issues are raised and discussed in these forums. This QTU resource will be updated and reviewed, so any ideas or feedback are welcomed.

[www.qtu.asn.au/womens-contact-info](http://www.qtu.asn.au/womens-contact-info)

## Parental leave – What is a “contrived” arrangement?

In some regions, pregnant members who have requested a return to full-time work are being told that their requests may be viewed as “contrived” if the request is made prior to their parental leave. I encourage members who have had this experience to contact QTAD or their local QTU Organiser to seek advice. The QTU has been in active discussions with the department about this, and if a woman’s return to full-time work is not approved solely on the basis of her pregnancy status, it may constitute discrimination.

## Girls Uniform Agenda

The QTU continues to support the work of Girls Uniform Agenda. It is essential that all schools have uniform options that enable girls to wear shorts and/or pants to schools, including as part of their formal school uniform. The current Journal has a fantastic article by our Vice-President, Sam Pidgeon, regarding the QTU’s push for uniform equity. It is simply not OK that schools have archaic and possibly discriminatory school uniform options for our students in 2018.

The QTU wants to hear your stories, the good, the bad and the ugly! Drop us a quick email, and let us know what the deal is with your school community, and please encourage others to do so too. Send them to [girlsuniform@qtu.asn.au](mailto:girlsuniform@qtu.asn.au)

## Queensland abortion law reform

Following on from the active campaign for abortion law reform in Queensland, Attorney General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills Yvette D’Ath referred the issue of modernising Queensland’s laws relation to the termination of pregnancy to the Queensland Law Reform Commission, for review and investigation.

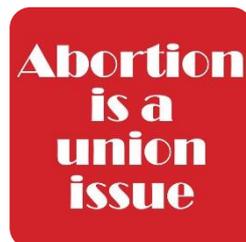
As part of the review process, groups and individuals have had the opportunity to provide submissions. The QTU, QCU, QNMU and other trade unions have provided submissions to this consultation process. They were required by the 13 February. QTU Executive and the Women, Teachers and Girls Committee endorsed the QTU’s submission prior to lodgement.

The QTU submission was based on existing QTU policy which reads:

### 4.1.4 Fertility control – planned parenthood

*The QTU recognises the right of every person to control her/his own body, including her/his own fertility. This right includes access to adequate health and counselling services, and the removal of all restrictions to safe abortion.*

The Queensland Law Reform Commission is to provide a report on the outcomes of the review to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills by 30 June 2018. It is strongly hoped that new legislation will come before parliament by the end of the year.



## The AEU Rosemary Richards' Awards (national)

Applications for the 2018 Rosemary Richards Scholarship are now welcome, with a closing date of Friday 11 May. The award provides a scholarship of \$10,000 for a special project or research to assist women educators. It may be:

- the establishment of a work-shadowing arrangement or a mentoring arrangement
- research or study experiences
- formal and/or informal training and development opportunities (e.g. attendance at an appropriate conference)
- the design and implementation of a discrete project.

In order to ensure high quality applications, we ask that those considering an application consult with me prior to submitting an application.

An advertisement is included in the forthcoming edition of *The Australian Educator* and application information has also been uploaded to the AEU Federal website at <http://www.aeufederal.org.au/our-work/women/rosemary-richards-scholarship-2018>

## QTU Women's Conference date claimer

The biennial QTU Women's Conference is taking place **in Brisbane on Monday 2 July** (during the winter vacation period). Keep a look out for invitations early in term two. It is always a fabulous event with inspiring and knowledgeable guest speakers, and is a great chance to meet and network with other QTU women.

## Labour Day – date claimer

Your QTU will be joining with other unions in statewide events across the Labour Day long weekend (5-7 May). Be sure to mark the date on your calendar and come along with your family and friends to join in the celebrations.

## More information

This newsletter aims to provide QTU women with relevant information and resources to support and encourage the women of our Union. Feedback and enquiries can be emailed for the attention of me, Penny Spalding, at [services@qtu.asn.au](mailto:services@qtu.asn.au).

Authorised by:

Graham Moloney  
**General Secretary**