

Friday 10 March 2017

BIG TURNOUT FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY FORUM

A capacity audience of over one hundred people attended yesterday's **Be Bold for Change** celebration of International Women's Day hosted by the City of Ryde's Status of Women's Advisory Committee at Eden Gardens.

The event celebrated the achievements of women in the community and how society as a whole has benefited from women's leadership in taking on the challenges that many face.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Bill Pickering, highlighted the Council's efforts to close the gender gap. "It was the City of Ryde that first adopted increased paid parental leave back in 2008 which has now become a national standard.

"We have certainly made progress with gender equity policies and conditions adopted, but there are areas including political representation that still need to be addressed.

"Today's event and the stories we have heard reveal the true scope of women's achievements and challenges from many perspectives."

The Chair of the Status of Women's Advisory Committee, Clr Roy Maggio, said: "Today's International Women's Day forum was truly inspirational with guest speakers talking to a packed house at the event.

"The audience was in awe of the experiences they shared with us and with their insightful advice. The forum also provided an opportunity for networking and for everyone to take part in interactive workshops where real issues facing women today were discussed.

"The City of Ryde has already achieved some very important and significant changes for women, and today's forum provided another fantastic opportunity for women in our community to 'Be Bold for Change'."

Guest speakers included Dr Brindha Shivalingham, neurosurgeon and founder of Brainstorm charity and Julia Zaetta, acclaimed Editor of Better Homes and Gardens, who also took part in a lively panel discussion were warmly received by the audience.

Media Contact: Lee Kirkland City of Ryde Media Officer p●99528083 m●0434306444
e●lkirkland@ryde.nsw.gov.au