

Wednesday 29 November 2017

FUNDING CONFIRMED FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT ACTIVITIES

Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, announced today funding from Investing in Women NSW for a series of four women's empowerment activities.

The Mayor was speaking at a packed women's forum held at the West Ryde Community Centre to celebrate White Ribbon Day.

"This is great news that funding of nearly \$20,000 from the State Government for our Women's Empowerment Boot Camps Project has been successful," the Mayor said. "Grants allow us to plan and carry out events like today's *Secure, Independent Women's Forum* and the recent STEM Careers workshop in partnership with CSIRO.

"This is good for Ryde and good for women of all ages and life stages living in Ryde."

He also outlined details of future activities, including a Women in Leadership forum planned for International Women's Day in March 2018, and a Women in Small Business forum in May 2018.

Council has been a strong advocate of White Ribbon Day since 2008 and promotes gender equality through policies and activities. "Council believes that promoting gender equality and advancing the social, economic and political status of women of all cultures, ages and backgrounds are important strategies for the prevention of violence against women.

"There is clearly a relationship between gender equity and women's security and Council plays an important leadership role of bringing people together, to facilitate information and making connections with service provider easier," the Mayor said.

The *Secure, Independent and Read for the Future* forum brought together experts and service providers who develop and implement projects that support women. They included:

- Melanie Fernandez, Deputy CEO, NSW Council of Social Service NCOSS
- Cate Sinclair, Executive Officer The Northern Centre
- Streta Mrkic, Centrelink Multicultural Services Officer
- Adelaide Collinson, Christian Community Aid CCA
- Uma Menon, Community Migrant Resource Centre CMRC
- Jessica Mathews, Ryde District Mums

Cllr Penny Pederson, Chair of the City of Ryde Women's Advisory Committee who hosted the event said she was delighted at the response from State Agencies and local service providers and members of the community who made the forum such a success.

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