

## **Premier's Council for Women**

The following women were recently appointed to the Premier's Council for Women to serve a 2 year term which began in June 2008. The Minister for Women announced their appointment at the quarterly meeting of Peak Women's Organisations held on 12 June 2008.

**Bronwyn Chalmers** lives and works on the mid North Coast of NSW and has experience in providing services to a variety of groups of marginalised women in remote areas of NSW. Currently Manager of Coffs Harbour Women's Health Centre Inc and committee member of numerous community groups providing services to women in the areas of domestic violence, safety, youth, tenancy and health.

**Rachel (Rae) Cooper** has a PhD Economics (Industrial Relations) and is an expert on women's employment issues. She is currently lecturing in work and organisational studies at the University of Sydney. Rae has been a member of numerous women's organisations such as NSW Working Women's Centre; Asian Women at Work; and Women and Work Research Group, University of Sydney. She is well linked to community women's groups, unions and the business sector.

**Judith Henderson** is a consultant on strategic planning and development, leadership and change, and knowledge management. She has experience in the public sector along with the areas of business development, education, immigration, gender and the environment. Judith has been a member on various state and national advisory committees and reference groups as well as the UN Commission on the Status of Women. Judith mentors several women in the private and public sectors.

**Terri Janke** is an Aboriginal solicitor running her own business specialising in Indigenous arts and entertainment law. Terri is a mentor to young women and is a member of numerous community committees representing the interests of Aboriginal people. Terri is well linked to indigenous networks and was nominated for 2005 NSW Woman of the Year Award.

**Hind Kourouche** has made an extensive community contribution with regard to raising the profile of Arabic and Muslim women. Hind is a recognised leader in the Arabic community, advocating for women in areas of leadership, education, health, safety, and cultural issues. Hind has previously served on relevant committees including the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW, Arabic Welfare Council and Lebanese Chamber of Commerce.

**Natasha Lay** is a young woman of Chinese background, living in South Western Sydney and is actively involved in the local community. Natasha is currently completing a double degree in Bachelor of Arts in Communications (Social Inquiry) and Bachelor of Law. Natasha is Chair of Liverpool Youth Council and was a volunteer with Liverpool Women's Health Centre. She has been involved with Liverpool City Council's 2010 Bicentenary Committee; Reach Out! Youth Advisory Board; and Yo.WeST Youth Conference.

**Deirdre Mason (Deputy Chair)** served as Council's Deputy Chair for the previous two terms. She has held senior management positions in the private and public sectors and has a long-standing commitment to women and community affairs. Deirdre was a City Councillor in Victoria and was Director of the Women's Policy Unit in the Victorian Government. Deirdre was the first woman appointed to Telstra Executive and has held directorships with the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, the Australian Children's Television Foundation and the National Heart Foundation. Deirdre is a past president of the St John Ambulance Foundation.

**Patricia McKenzie** is a strong advocate for people with disabilities and their families. Patricia was admitted to High Court of Australia and Supreme Court of NSW and is the current CEO of Gas Market Company Ltd. She is a member of the Commonwealth's Disability Standards Review Panel and is Chair of several committees who provide services to people with disabilities. Patricia has served on several community groups providing assistance to people with intellectual disabilities. She is the past Executive Director of the 7<sup>th</sup> World Down Syndrome Congress.

**Jebby Phillips** is a specialist in media and public relations. She is Executive Producer, Mornings with Kerri-Anne and the Today Show (Nine Network). Jebby has studied Australian Politics at university and is skilled at targeting women to disseminate information. She also mentors younger women in the workplace.

**Virginia Robinson** is an Aboriginal lawyer from far Western NSW. Virginia is a strong advocate for Aboriginal women with links to the local rural Aboriginal community. She is a member of numerous government and community bodies to assist Aboriginal people regarding the issues of violence against women, sexual assault, drug and alcohol abuse, women's health, youth, justice and sentencing.

**Michelle Rowland** is based in Western Sydney and is a full time senior lawyer in private practice. She also volunteers as a duty solicitor at Redfern Legal Centre Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme. Michelle is a mentor in Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Council's Young Women's Leadership Program and is national convenor of the National Labor Women's Network. Michelle is the youngest female councillor and deputy mayor of Blacktown City Council.

**Vanessa Seagrove** lives and works in Western Sydney. She is an advocate for women in male dominated industries and is Lead Industrial Officer, Australian Manufacturing Workers Union, NSW branch. Vanessa is a member of numerous women's committees within the union movement and is a previous member of Management Committee, NSW Working Women's Centre. She also has experience in communicating with and representing migrant women workers.

**Darriea Turley** lives in Broken Hill and has access to extensive women's networks in local government, health and in rural communities. Darriea is Manager of Community Engagement, Greater Western Area Health Service; Board member of Australian Local Government Women's Association; Chair of National Rural Women's Coalition; and Immediate Past President of Australian Local Government Women's Association NSW. Darriea has extensive experience in serving on boards in relation to issues affecting women such as domestic violence and increasing number of women in decision making roles.