

Speech by Mayor Logan K Howlett JP
International Women's Day Morning Tea
City of Cockburn Administration Building
Friday, 6 March 2020

Good morning Ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the elected members and staff of the City of Cockburn I welcome you to today's celebration in the lead up to International Women's Day on Sunday 8 March which this year has the Campaign theme: **#EachforEqual**.

I thank Marie Taylor for her 'Welcome to Country' and for sharing [aspects](#) of Nyungar culture; the music, song and dance; and the dreamtime stories and story lines that reflect how the Nyungar people valued Mother [earth](#) and all it has to offer to communities.

I acknowledge the Whadjup people of the Nyungar Nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which we are gathered today and I pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people here today.

I acknowledge:

- Deputy Mayor Lara Kirkwood;
- Councillor Chamonix Terblanche;
- Councillor Chontelle Stone;
- My wife Patricia;
- Our guest speaker, Marissa Verma, Managing Director of Bindi Bindi Dreaming;
- Members of the Executive Team and other members of staff at the City of Cockburn;
- Representatives from other Local governments, the business & not-for-profit sectors, the community and those involved in volunteering;
- Ladies and gentlemen, one and all.

International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural

and political achievements of women - while also marking a call to action for accelerating gender equality. It is a day when all women are recognised for their achievements.

The first International Women's Day (IWD) occurred in 1911, supported by over one million people. Today, IWD belongs to all groups collectively everywhere.

IWD is not country, group or organization specific.

Gloria Steinem, world-renowned feminist, journalist and activist once explained "The story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organisation but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights."

Some facts about WA Women to consider on International Women's Day are:

- 50% of Western Australians are women and girls;
- WA has the highest gender pay gap in Australia at 21.8% compared to 14% across Australia ;
- On average, women's superannuation balances are approximately 60% of men's;
- 68% of adults aged 18+ accessing homelessness services in WA are women;
- Women perform around 75% of all unpaid work, including caring for children and others, housework and administration and volunteering ;
- 31.6% of WA Members of Parliament are women; and from the City of Cockburn perspective 50% of Cockburn's elected members are women

In closing; as you celebrate International Women's Day I thank each and every one of you for the important roles you play in our community, in our homes, businesses and the not-for-profit sectors, as volunteers, and importantly, for continuing to step up and contribute to the decisions made to make our world a better place to live.

My you all continue to pursue your dreams and aspirations and turn them into reality?

Thank you.