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Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Mineral Resources
Minister for State Development



Linda Burney

Minister for Community Services
Minister for Women

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NSW Government supports important women's event

The NSW Government has continued its commitment to supporting women in rural NSW, announcing a \$42,500 sponsorship package for the next annual NSW Women's Gathering, which provides inspirational guest speakers, networking opportunities, activities and educational workshops for all women.

Minister for Primary Industries Ian Macdonald and Minister for Women Linda Burney said the NSW Government is proud to support this important annual event.

It follows the 2009 Women's Gathering, held at Junee on the weekend, which involved over 480 women mainly from rural, regional and remote areas of NSW.

"This is a great event which women have been participating in for the last 17 years and they are taking away lots of ideas, learning new skills, and building support networks in the process," Mr Macdonald said.

"The Government contributed \$40,000 towards the event at Junee and I am pleased to say we will be providing \$42,500 for next year's event at Wentworth in October 2010."

Minister for Women Linda Burney was impressed by the enormous level of participation from women from all corners of the State.

"This is an important event for all women from the land, for businesswomen, Aboriginal women and for those who live in rural communities, regional cities or coastal towns," Ms Burney said.

"For many women from smaller areas, it's an opportunity to break the isolation and connect with other women. Women are vitally important to the social and economic fabric of our rural communities, and this type of event provides a rare but important chance to celebrate that.

"The event at Junee was an outstanding success, even attracting a few blokes who recognise the need to also get away and participate in the Gathering's special men's program.

"It included useful advice from guest speakers including media expert and voice-over artist, Ella James, and best selling author and CEO of Quest for Life Foundation, Petrea King.

"Important workshops were held such as seeking feedback on issues around domestic and family violence, educating mothers about developmental stages of children's growth, and recognising signs of depression.

"Other popular activities and workshops included tours of the local area, alternative therapies, bonsai, arts, massage, wine and cheese tasting and tai chi."

The next NSW Women's Gathering will be held 29-31 October 2010 in Wentworth.

Media note: Photos of the event are available