8 March 2012

**Strong Leadership, Strong Women, Strong Territory**

Women across the world will today celebrate International Women’s Day (IWD) and the Territory Government’s theme this year is *Strong Leadership, Strong Women, Strong Territory*.

IWD is a global day for women that focuses attention on the achievements and progress made by and for women locally, nationally and internationally and brings to the forefront that not all women share equally in the same freedoms and rights as supported by the United Nations.

Minister for Women’s Policy Malarndirri McCarthy, said Territory women have celebrated International Women’s Day since 1976.

“Today is special day for all women across the world when we share our achievements, our strengths and our aspirations as women,” said Minister McCarthy.

“International Women’s Day is also about acknowledging that there are still millions of women and girls who are fighting for their freedom and equality, and who need the help and support of strong women and strong leadership.”

The Territory Government’s International Women’s Day Grants provides $20,000 each year to assist community organisations to celebrate the day.

“There has been a great response from organisations across the Territory, and events will be taking place in Wadeye, Katherine, Tiwi Islands, Darwin, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek throughout March to mark the significant achievements of women,” said the Minister.

“I encourage everyone to take part in the celebrations and activities which range from breakfasts, film nights, art exhibitions, and a march through the streets of Darwin on Saturday.”

On Saturday 10 March 2012, an all-ages walk will take place through the streets of Darwin’s CBD to celebrate International Women’s Day and bring attention to ongoing women’s equity issues. The walk commences at 9.00 am from Parliament House.

Further information about International Women’s Day events across the Northern Territory is available at [www.territorywomen.nt.gov.au](http://www.territorywomen.nt.gov.au). Information about events will also be available in local newspapers.

**Media Contact:** Ursula Raymond  0457 825 507