



Women's Network Hunter NSW

The Hon. Bob Debus MP
NSW Attorney General
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Debus,

The Women's Network (Hunter NSW) is the fastest growing women's group in the Hunter. It was founded 18 months ago and now has over 300 women who come from as far as Singleton, Muswellbrook and the Central Coast to participate in functions that are generally held in Maitland.

The Network is non-party political and seeks to provide a supportive, educative forum for women. It particularly calls on its supporters to help increase the number of women in decision making roles in the community and at all levels of government.

Her Honour Judge Margaret Sidis of the District Court of NSW addressed over 70 women at the Women's Network on Tuesday 4th April at Mansfield in Maitland. Judge Sidis was appointed to the District Court 11 years ago, sitting primarily in the civil jurisdiction of the court dealing with personal injury, commercial disputes, defacto and property relationship matters. She has a special interest in alternative methods of dispute resolution.

At the function, the following resolution was overwhelmingly supported:

Women's Network Hunter NSW supports the promotion of female lawyers into senior decision making positions within law firms and into the judiciary, where they can participate in discussion on current issues and impact on the future direction of our society. We call on both state and federal governments to promote women for appointment within the judicial system.

By providing a forum for honing public speaking skills, encouraging the presentation of ideas in a logical manner in an open environment and by providing a network of women mentors with a variety of skills, Women's Network Hunter NSW presents an opportunity for female lawyers to improve their chance of recognition and promotion within the legal sector.

We request that you consider this resolution when making appointments within the judicial system, and look forward to seeing more diversity amongst our legal decision makers at all levels in the future.

Yours sincerely

Jennifer Aitchison
President

11 April 2006

Contacts

President

Jenny Aitchison

jenny@nht.com.au

0418 456 405

Secretary

Vicki Woods (cofounder)

info@bushrangersbar.com.au

0407 301 201

Vice President

Bronwyn Ridgway (cofounder)

berryhouse1bigpond.com

0419 721 704

Treasurer

Natalie Raine

nraine@pdcgroup.com.au

0414 889 216

Membership Officer

Jann Gardner

jann.gardner@sparke.com.au

0404 828 207

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