

### 3. 2009 International Women's Day Expressions of Interest to host event

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International Women's Day (IWD) Event Expression of Interest (EOI) 2009

**Group Manager Customer Service and Community Development**

#### **BACKGROUND**

IWD is a day to celebrate the gains women have made over the years, to bring our attention to the issues that still face us and to celebrate women's contribution to making Australia and the world a better place for everyone. This years theme being Women and Education.

10 Each year grants of \$1000 are made available by the NSW Office for Women's Policy to host an IWD. The grants are only available to local government. It is important that Council recognises International Women's Day and plays a part by attracting funds to the Shire to host an event or forum.

Given resources are limited a partnership model was adopted by Council with Sertec hosting IWD events for the past four years. In order to broaden the base of community groups involved in the program in late 2008 Council called for expressions of interest from community organisations to work with Council to run an event for IWD.

20 This year we have received two EOI to run the IWD event on 8th March 2009, one being from the Women's Resource Centre to hold an event in Bega and one from Merimbula Area Community Association Inc to hold an event in Merimbula.

The Merimbula Area Community Association Merimbula (MACAM) Event would focus on workshops looking at the stages of education with sport, health and social groups being represented at the event. The Women's Resource Centre Bega event would promote local female entertainment and education, offer interactive art activities, and provide lunch and child care as well as showcasing relevant support organisations.

#### **ISSUES**

##### **Social / Cultural**

The social plan outlines women as a target group to be supported in areas of education, domestic violence and engaging isolated older women.

##### **Financial**

30 This IWD Event has no impact on the budget as the \$1000 funding to support this event is sourced from the NSW Office for Women's Policy – International Women Day Grants Program.

**Resources (including staff)**

Community Development staff will have minimal input in organising this event.

**CONCLUSION**

The Women's Resource Centre will attract a larger cross section of the community with this family inclusive event. The Women's Resource Centre has been operating for more than 20 years in the Bega Valley Shire and with their core focus being women's issues this places them well to host the 2009 event.

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**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council support the Women's Resource Centre as the partner agency for the hosting of the 2009 International Women's Day event.