



Sharon Grierson MP

Federal Member for Newcastle

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2008

Federal Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson today encouraged the community to celebrate International Women's Day.

Sharon will join Amnesty International Newcastle for its International Women's Day Celebration at Wickham Park Hotel, Maitland Road, Islington, at 2.00pm today.

Today marks 100 years since 15,000 women marched through New York calling for better pay and for voting rights. This march was one of the inspirations behind the establishment of International Women's Day.

As the first woman to be a parliamentary representative for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson said it was important to remember the women who blazed the trails that others follow today.

"And in honouring the hundred year struggle for equality, we also look to the future," Ms Grierson said.

"The Rudd Government is introducing a *National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children* to improve women's safety."

"We have also introduced legislation to abolish the Howard Government's AWAs which have hurt low paid and vulnerable women in the workplace."

"Our work and family policies, including a new child care centre to be established in Newcastle, will help women and families juggle their responsibilities as parents and workers."

"On International Women's Day 2008, I'm proud to be a part of the Rudd Government implementing these policies to help the women of Newcastle."

In April, Ms Grierson will also address an international conference in Laos on Gender Equity in Government Budgets and Economic Policy at the invitation of the World Bank and United Nations Development Program.

Canberra
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Ph: 02 6277 4221
Fax: 02 6277 8461



Newcastle
427 Hunter Street
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300
Ph: 02 4926 1555
Fax: 02 4926 1895
www.sharongrierson.com