

# What does International Women's Day mean to me?

We have asked women from across NBC, both students and staff, to explain what IWD means to them:



*'It is important to acknowledge the effort of women history that have fought for equal right. There is still a way to go. Power to the women, and can I have a pay rise?'* – **Keirah Dean**

*To me IWD is a day to reflect and celebrate the wonderful women who have uplifted me and shaped the woman I am today. It is also a reminder of the struggles women continue to face with equality, safety and voice in Australia and across the globe* - **Jasmin Campling**

*"International Women's Day to me is recognising mothers and or mothers like figures and their accomplishments but also to acknowledge the amazing things women have achieved over the years. Such as the women's rights movement"*  
**Mikaela Apps**

*"IWD celebrates the strength women get from being themselves and appreciating our skills, personalities and the flaws that makes us all unique. It's a time we all stand together to unite our differences and celebrate the fact that we were born strong and powerful women. The focal point of this uplifting day is shedding light on the women's rights movement, bringing attention to issues such as gender equality, reproductive rights, and violence and abuse against women. We all have the right to stand tall and proud of the women we've grown to become, so we celebrate that on this day with dignity, courage, hope, equality, collaboration, tenacity, appreciation, and the respect we have for one another."* **Jazlyn Morris**



*"For me IWD is the day we all take time and reflect on the journey that females had to take to have access to the rights and to the freedom globally. This day symbolises the steps that were taken and bring awareness to the steps that should be taken to reach a greater path of equality."* **Marie Maarouf**



*"To me IWD is about raising awareness for the 12 million young girls married off every year before they even turn 18, IDW is to help bring awareness to the 1 in 3 girls that will experience some kind of physical or sexual abuse in their lifetime, IWD is bringing attention to the 1-10 women who have self-harmed due to body image. However, while still raising awareness and making a call to action is one of the*

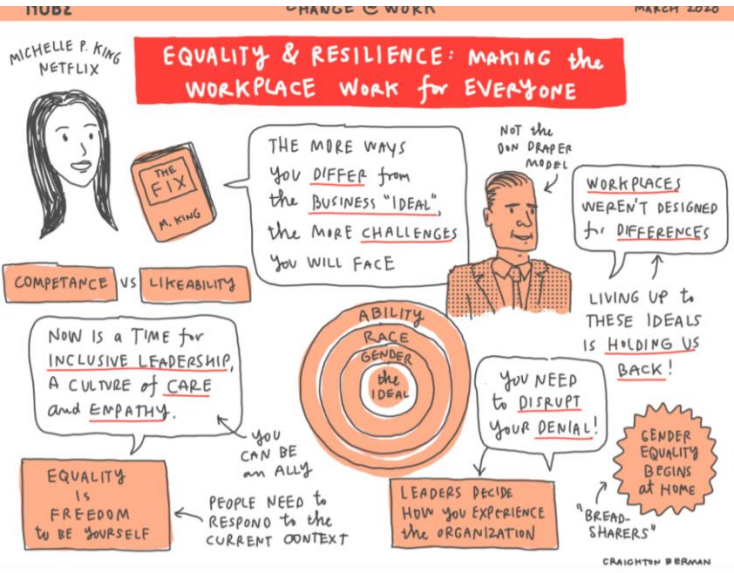
*most important reasons for IWD it isn't the only thing I believe it's about. I also believe it's about collaborating and uplifting women and young girls and showing them that what they do every day is seen, appreciated and respected. IWD for me is a day where I can show off how proud I am for not only myself but for other strong women just for being the fierce and independent people that they are."* **Joycelyn Tapp**

In 1956, the Victorian parliament passed the Teaching Service (Married Women) Act, removing the marriage bar in the Victorian Education Department. Married women could now be hired to work in permanent teaching positions but they were denied their right to superannuation entitlements.

**Married women teachers would not receive the same superannuation entitlements as their male colleagues until 1982.**

1982 – The year that “Physical” by Olivia Newton-John was at No 1 on the charts.

To me that does not seem that long ago. So, while I am grateful now that I have the same superannuation entitlements as my male colleagues I don't work in an inclusive environment.



Author Michelle King has studied workplaces. They are gendered and most organisations carry the idea of an “ideal worker,” typically a straight, white man who doesn't have to juggle work and family commitments.

So, on International Women's Day I want gender equality which to me is about making workplaces work for **EVERYONE**

- Megan Murfitt