

**DESTINATION
GOLDCOAST.****MEDIA RELEASE**

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500 TOURISM PEERS COME TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE GLOBAL DAY

This International Women's Day (8 March) will see the Gold Coast community unite to celebrate the significant social, economic, and cultural contributions of women in tourism and other key industries.

500 industry leaders will join together to mark the occasion at Destination Gold Coast's International Women's Day luncheon at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Destination Gold Coast's Head of Stakeholders and Strategy Rachel Hancock said the organisation was delighted by the city's support of the event, only in its second year.

"A year on from reopening to the world, our celebration today will reflect on where we have been with a focus on the bright future ahead," Ms Hancock said.

"And whilst the journey to today hasn't been easy, I know for many of us the stories of support, resilience, and courage have not just reshaped our industry but us as people.

"Women make up the majority of the tourism industry – nearly 70 per cent – and we recognise that there are many remarkable females who quite often don't get the recognition they deserve.

"Tourism is an industry of industries and that's reflected by the 500 people in the room today – from tourism and hospitality related services to arts and culture, real estate, education, and government.

"Today is a day to recognise and celebrate the extraordinary contribution of women throughout our community as we hear from some of Australia's most inspiring leaders including powerful female CEO's, a quadriplegic medical hero, and a local sustainability warrior."

Hosted by Seven Network Presenter Liz Cantor, the luncheon will serve as a timely reminder that everyone everywhere can step forward, drive gender parity, and truly embrace equity.

A series of thought-provoking and inspirational conversations will see the event culminate with a panel including Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Organising Committee CEO, Cindy Hook, Tourism and Events Queensland CEO Patricia O'Callaghan, 2022 Queensland Tourism Awards Young Achiever Amy Gash, and 2021 Queensland Australian of the Year and Disability Advocate, Doctor Dinesh Palipana OAM.

Destination Gold Coast has shown its commitment to equal opportunity for women and championing female leadership in its recruitment and promotion of female staff.

Today, women make up more than half of Destination Gold Coast's employees, with women holding 70 per cent of mid-level management positions and one-half of executive management.

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