



## MEDIA RELEASE

**Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2014**

### What is the impact on women in disaster affected areas in Australia?

Are you aware of the impacts of disaster on women? Have you experienced them?

Do you think government and emergency services and disaster relief agencies are aware of the economic impacts of emergencies and disasters on women?

Please join us at a free community discussion in Marburg, Queensland from 10am to 1.30pm on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October where lunch will be provided.

Hosting the event are two National Women's Alliances – economic Security4Women (eS4W) and the National Rural Women's Coalition (NRWC).

"We are aware of the significant contributions women make to the preparation for and management of emergencies and are also aware of the toll this takes on them. In 2012 eS4W and Justice Equality Rights Access (JERA) International came to South East Queensland, talked to women about the impact of the 2011 floods and reported back to the Australian Government" said Sally Jope of eS4W.

"With our sister alliance, eS4W is now inviting the communities of the Lockyer Valley and surrounds to hear about the actions we have taken based on that earlier research and to make sure our future advocacy reflects the experiences of women who have been affected by disasters".

"NRWC is already talking to government about improved ways to prepare for and respond to disasters, to more effectively take advantage of the resources women bring to these disaster situations. Both alliances have also sent reports to the Productivity Inquiry into Disaster Funding" said President of the NRWC, Irene Mills.

"We know that women do the greater amount of unpaid care work in the family as well as in the community, and that this increases during and after a disaster. We also know that this crowds out the time women have available for paid work. This is during a time when families in particular need extra cash, when the local economies need their workers and when women could be increasingly engaged in rebuilding and post disaster projects".

The community event follows on from a roundtable discussion held at Australia's Parliament House in Canberra in June, 2014. That discussion and the community event in Marburg are based on two projects that focused on the economic impact on women in disaster affected areas in Australia. They are:

*"Weather the Storm"* - NRWC's kit for community groups to support women to prepare for emergencies and disasters. The kit is available to download for free at <http://nrwc.com.au/Projects/WeatherTheStorm.aspx> and

*"Women's voices from the floodplains"*, a report by JERA International for eS4W, that focused an economic gender lens on responses in disaster affected areas in Queensland and Victoria (2011 floods). The report is available at <http://www.security4women.org.au/past-projects/2013-projects/voices-from-the-flood-plains>.

If you are interested in attending please register online at <http://www.trybooking.com/101650> by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2014 or call Sharen at 1300 918 273.

#### Media contacts

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