

COMMITTEE NEWS AND UPDATES



Northern Territory Women Lawyers Association (NTWLA)

On Saturday 11 March 2017 a group of your dedicated colleagues, along with about 750 men, women and children, participated in this year's International Women's Day march. It was the biggest turnout yet, and as we walked through the streets in a sea of purple, I was happily surprised by the number of onlookers who stopped what they were doing, put down their coffees, and stood up to cheer us on.

There were fantastic outfits, including a group of very talented roller skaters (well I only saw one stack all morning) and an abundant use of glitter signage and face painting. We marched around the CBD chanting things I mostly couldn't understand but that I'm sure had relevance to the slogan of the day – **Be Bold for Change!**

As I clambered my way out of my cosy bed earlier that morning, several questions were running through my mind. And while "Why did I drink so much wine last night" was at the forefront of my thinking, I also found myself querying the point of 'marching' and wondering what difference I will make.

I also wondered, what is the issue for me. Why am I the Secretary of the NTWLA? What causes me to put my hand up to answer emails, write agendas and spend my lunch hours in committee meetings. Because really, I have it very good in the workplace. I work on a wonderful, female dominant workplace, that is flexible and friendly. We even have an office cat!



Yes, I care about the gender pay gap, and I care about the difficulties of women in negotiating flexible workplace arrangements. I care about the impact of these issues on others. But for me personally these are not pressing issues.

So like all well-educated, inquisitive millennials—I googled that question. What is the point of marching. And found a timely article about the recent women's marches following the election of Donald Trump.

As some of you may be aware, I'm pretty into sports. Last weekend marked the very first AFL Women's grand final.

We all know marching probably isn't going to do anything. But sometimes it's all we can do.

Jessica Holgersson
Secretary
NTWLA

