

by Roselynn Anderson



FRAN RALSTON

2007

**PAM GILBERT AWARD
FOR GENDER EQUITY**

THE PAM GILBERT AWARD FOR GENDER EQUITY 2007 WAS PRESENTED TO FRAN RALSTON AT THE BRISBANE BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER.

FRAN RALSTON has been an active member of AWE since the very early days.

She has been an inspiration to all women as she has achieved so much in her career in education.

Her career started with Brisbane Catholic Education. Fran Ralston has been employed with Brisbane Catholic Education for more than 30 years, commencing at Our Lady of Mt Carmel School Coorparoo in 1975.

In the early 1980s, Fran took up a position of curriculum leadership within the Catholic Education Office. She retained that leadership position until 2003, at which time she 'stepped aside' from the role. She continues to work in the Curriculum Team at Brisbane Catholic Education Centre

as Education Officer: Communication and Special Projects.

Throughout her time with Brisbane Catholic Education, both in schools and in the office, Fran has been a strong, vocal and sustained advocate for girls and young women especially in respect of education.

Fran's commitment in this is evidenced in her long-standing membership of AWE and her relentless work for the educational advancement of girls and young women.

Fran's energy and dedication to all issues relating to equity and social justice have been immeasurable ... particularly with regard to women's issues.

Fran has dedicated her career to

education and has achieved much in development and support of curriculum for Brisbane Catholic Education. Fran's organisational, secretarial and convening skills and excellent recall of important information have been highly valued by all members of AWE over the years.

From a personal perspective I have the greatest respect and fondness for Fran and have appreciated her support not only in the various roles I have undertaken on AWE Executives but also her personal friendship over the years that I have been involved.

I am sure that Pam Gilbert would have agreed, as we all here tonight do, that she is an excellent choice as the recipient of the 2006 *Pam Gilbert Award*.