

THE PAM GILBERT AWARD FOR GENDER EQUITY 2009 WAS PRESENTED TO MARIA DELANEY AT THE BRISBANE BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER.



MARIA DELANEY

2009

PAM GILBERT AWARD
FOR GENDER EQUITY

MARIA DELANEY has been a member of AWE for some years and is currently Co-convenor of the Brisbane Branch, a member of the National Executive and the *Redress* Editorial Committee. This year, Maria is also the project leader for *Leading Social Change*—an AWE programme funded through the Office of Women—Women Leadership and Development Programme.

With three school-aged children, Maria is a teacher who has held a long-term interest in school and community approaches to social justice and gender issues. Using the Internet as a useful tool for communication and research, Maria discovered information on the Office for Women website regarding grants for women and leadership projects. As it aligned with AWE strategic action plans, Maria applied and was successful, resulting in a grant for the proposed project—*Leading Social Change*.

Since May, 2008, Maria has worked on the national *Safe and Supportive School Communities: finding workable solutions for countering bullying, harassment and violence* (SSSC) project and associated *Bullying. No Way!* website. As senior project officer,

she has co-ordinated and produced a range of BNW online materials for schools to address existing issues and work proactively at the classroom and whole-school level to support the development of inclusive school communities. She has also provided a monthly national e-bulletin, and managed and maintained the functionality and currency of the *Bullying. No Way!* website.

It was at an AWE event in 2007 where Maria heard about the potential SSSC position, so the SSSC project has AWE to thank for Maria's contribution in that role.

Over the years, Maria has led, developed and facilitated a range of professional learning, community education and classroom activities addressing gender and behaviour issues, working with organisations such as Education Queensland's Gender Equity Unit, the Eating Disorders Association of Queensland (EDA), and through initiatives such as the Federal Government *Success for Boys Programme* (S4B). Maria has a passion for enhancing critical understandings **about gender in leadership and a deep interest**

in developing and supporting professional learning combined with a vibrant community-of-inquiry approach across a range of research areas. It is clear that it would be unusual to see such a combination replicated.

Maria has made an enormous contribution to raising and generating debate within the Association of Women Educators and in the broader community. She has re-invigorated the AWE website through the availability of a wide range of resources that offer both practical and theoretical support for those working to improve outcomes for girls and women in education. Importantly, Maria has provided a space for conversations amongst users of the website. Probably the most important aspect of Maria's work is its critical stance—many of the materials and the conversations challenge us to consider how things are, and how they could be improved. This is truly the contribution of an active and committed feminist in contemporary education.