

Official Launch
The International Women's Day Photographic Exhibition
SPEECH by His Honour Mr Tom Pauling AO QC
Administrator of the Northern Territory
Supreme Court – 6 March 2009

It is a great pleasure for Tessa and I, as Joint Patrons of Life Without Barriers, to welcome you to the Official Launch of The International Women's Day Photographic Exhibition.

It is a bittersweet occasion. This photographic display is co-hosted by Life Without Barriers and the Northern Territory Anti Discrimination Commission. Less than a week ago, we farewelled one of the most active protagonists on behalf of social justice. Tony Fitzgerald, the Northern Territory Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, passionately and tirelessly stood up against many occurrences of discrimination, and he is sorely missed.

This Exhibition is the first of its kind and I commend the initiative. It is a celebration of women in the Northern Territory who have balanced disability with courage, determination and an ability to achieve. I urge you to keep the booklet on the twenty women as it is a wonderful tribute to those we are privileged to include in the tally of fellow Territorians.

I do not want to focus on just one or two names, as each one featured has enriched our society. They range in age from eleven to eighty. Some have served on boards, councils and in volunteer organisations. Some have excelled in sports such as equestrian, swimming and basketball. All have life experiences that should make us humble.