

## **Welcome Speech - Ms Eunice Watson**

Good morning.

Senator the Hon. Amanda Vanstone, Minister for Justice and Customs;

The Hon. Tom Barton. Minister for Police and Corrective Services. and  
Minister for Racing, Queensland;

The Hon. Judy Spence, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander  
Policy; Minister for Women's Policy; and Minister for Fair Trading;

Mr Jim O'Sullivan, Commissioner Queensland Police Service;

Ms Christine Nixon, NSW Police President, A.C.W.A.P;

Distinguished guests, our visitors from other places, and my fellow  
Australians: I am very pleased to be here this day. Although I was born not  
far from the banks of the Brisbane River, I am a woman of the Munnenjarl  
Dreaming, and my land is to the south of this city. A privilege has been  
bestowed upon me, that I, as a Murri woman, have been invited to welcome  
you to this conference; and I wish you well in your deliberations.

As it is customary law to do so, I acknowledge and pay my respects to the  
traditional people of this country, upon whose land we now stand.

The business of this conference is 'Women and Policing' and this is very  
important to my people and indeed, to all women. The access of women to  
justice has critical ramifications for every Australian family, and to families  
across the globe - so please remember that in the way of my people- words are  
important; but action is the only thing that will bring about real change.