



Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

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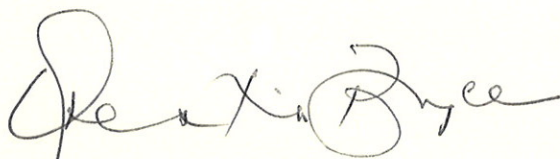
I warmly congratulate the International Working Group on Women and Sport for your marvellous work in encouraging women's participation and achievement in sport; providing a safe space in which women play, think, change, and reach their full potential.

It was not so long ago that women were excluded from many sports; indeed today they still lag inexcusably behind men in sponsorship, media coverage, and opportunities for professional play.

Nevertheless, societies around the globe are changing: government and non-government organisations support and promote their participation, and women and girls everywhere are running onto the field with confidence and *joie de vivre*.

The IWG performs an outstanding role in coordinating and underpinning that change, besides offering women themselves a platform on which to display their vigour and tenacity; their creativity and capacity to learn new skills; their leadership and fellowship; and their boundless sense of fun.

I extend my very best wishes to the IWG for another full and exhilarating year in 2009.


27.11.08.