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Australia Post celebrates 100 Years of International Women's Day

Australia Post is commemorating the centenary of International Women's Day (IWD) with the release of a stamp issue on 15 February.

The centenary of IWD is being celebrated around the world on 8 March 2011 and provides a unique and global opportunity to reignite, inspire and channel women's equality for the future.

"I am delighted that Australia Post is supporting the centenary of IWD with a commemorative stamp. The stamp recognises the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future and is an indelible channel through which we can promote positive change and raise awareness of the issues women face in their everyday lives," said the Minister for the Status of Women, Kate Ellis.

The first IWD was launched by Clara Zetkin (Leader of the Women's Office for the Social Democratic Party in Germany) on 19 March 1911 when more than a million European women and men united to call for an end to discrimination and for the right of women to vote, work and hold public office. The success of the first IWD exceeded all expectations.

"Australia Post is pleased to be able to recognise the achievements of women and support women's equality into the future. We have a proud history of women on stamps which include the recent Australian Legends stamp issue honouring four of Australia's eminent women – change advocate Eva Cox AO, former judge Elizabeth Evatt AC, academic and author Germaine Greer and journalist and author Anne Summers AO", said Australia Post Philatelic Manager, Michael Zsolt.

The first Australian IWD rally took place on 25 March 1928 in the Sydney Domain, with marches in Sydney and Melbourne following in 1931 and involving hundreds of participants. The first official government-sponsored IWD in Australia was held in 1975, when the UN declared International Women's Year, and was witnessed by one of the biggest street marches in Australia. Today IWD is characterised by a mixture of celebration of past achievements and looking ahead to the future challenges and opportunities for women.

The centenary of IWD stamp was designed by Stacey Zass, using a combination of images and graphic elements, including the symbol for women.

The centenary of IWD stamp issue includes a first day cover, stamp pack, sheetlet of 10 x 60c stamps and a maxicard. The stamp and associated products are available from participating Australia Post retail outlets, via mail order on 1800 331 794 and online at www.auspost.com.au/stamps from 15 February 2011, while stocks last.



For further information, or for high-res images of the stamps, please contact:
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Australia Post is the oldest continually operating organisation in Australia. Each year Australia Post delivers more than 5 billion items to 10.7 million addresses across Australia. With more than 4,400 outlets across the nation we are the largest retail network in Australia with over 2,500 of these outlets in rural and remote areas. We are a self-funding business and receive no taxpayer funding.