



SMITHTON YOUNG WOMEN SPEAK AT HOBART EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Young women aged 14-16 of Smithton shone at a high profile education conference in Hobart this month.

Four young women from **Project O Smithton** were invited to speak at **Education Transforms**, a learning engagement expo which brought together specialists from the education sector at the Peter Underwood Centre in Hobart. Young women spoke on a youth panel with Professor Natalie Brown, Director of the Peter Underwood Centre to an audience of over 150 people, which included the Commissioner for Children and Young People, and the Governor of Tasmania.

The young women were articulate and confident spokespeople, sharing their thoughts on education, learning, mentoring and engagement, as well as the assets of being part of Project O which offers a personalised learning in action journey for each participant, building on their strengths and interests.

"If I were school principal – I would have more girls only classes for male-dominated subjects, to encourage girls into these subjects", said Mia, Project O participant.

Abbey Macdonald, a senior lecturer at the University of Tasmania said "These awesome young women responded with command and conviction when asked what changes they would make to their schools if they were principal. Thank you Project O for sharing your wisdom with us."

Young women from Project O in Smithton and Wynyard are now working on producing **Tunes in the Tulips**, a music event for the whole family which celebrates music and the coming of Spring on Sunday 6th October at the Table Cape Tulip Farm.

In Project O, young rural women develop new skills and become change-makers in their community, building confidence, resilience and agency as well as new digital skills.

Project O is produced by leading campaigning arts organisation **Big hART**. Working in over 50 communities across Australia for 27 years, Big hART has won over 45 awards. Project O is supported by the Tasmanian State Government, Telstra, the Tasmanian Community Fund, Wynyard High and Smithton High.

