

March 8, 2010

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **THIS WEEK IS ENDOMETRIOSIS AWARENESS WEEK:**

#### **WOMEN URGED NOT TO SUFFER IN SILENCE**

Severe pelvic pain is not normal – don't suffer in silence.

That's the message Women's Health Queensland Wide's Bronwyn Buckley would like to get out during this week's Endometriosis Awareness Week (March 8 – 14).

In her role as health promotion officer for not-for-profit organisation Women's Health, Bronwyn is passionate about providing women with information on health issues to help improve their quality of life.

She said endometriosis affects between five and 10 per cent of menstruating women in Australia and usually starts in the teens and twenties.

"It's a condition where endometrial tissue normally found in the uterus grows in other parts of the pelvic region such as on ovaries, in the bowel, cervix, vagina, bladder and fallopian tubes," Bronwyn said.

"Symptoms vary but can include severe pelvic pain, painful periods, bladder problems, painful sex, irritable bowel symptoms, bloating, headaches and infertility.

"All of these symptoms can have a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of women, their relationships with family and friends as well as in the workplace."

To help women with endometriosis better understand their pain and take an active role in their care and treatment, Women's Health has launched a new online videostreamed presentation featuring leading Australian specialist, Dr Susan Evans.

Dr Evans is a gynaecologist and laparoscopic surgeon based in Adelaide who specialises in the management of endometriosis and pain. Her book *Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain* has helped thousands of women and clinicians better understand this debilitating condition since it was first published in 2005.

To view the latest videostream on endometriosis go to [www.womhealth.org.au](http://www.womhealth.org.au) or call the Health Information Line at Women's Health on 3839 9988 or 1800 017 676 (toll free outside Brisbane) and speak with our experienced women's health nurses.

Ends.

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