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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**Women in technology urged to step up and shine**

Queensland women in all fields of science and technology are being urged to step up and shine as the State’s biggest community of women in tech officially comes of age.

Women in Technology (WiT), the peak professional body for women in ICT and life sciences, is celebrating its 21st year with plans for the group’s biggest awards program yet.

While women are encouraged to put themselves forward for an award, all Queenslanders are being urged to “dob-in” a star.

WiT Co-Presidents Alison Rice and Joanna Field said: “Women can be very reluctant to put themselves forward but this is their opportunity to shine.

“There are many women doing amazing work in Queensland. Often, they are quietly working behind the scenes and it takes events, like the WiT awards, to bring them to the community’s attention and to inspire others to follow their lead.

“Queensland has one of the highest rates of tech startups in Australia. Our scientists are leading world class research and our entrepreneurs and expert professionals are breaking new ground in IT, digital technologies and online services.

“This is the calibre of women that have been nominated since the WiT awards began and more than 100 of them have been officially recognised as winners.

“The nomination process is quick and easy. If you know a woman who is making an outstanding contribution to science and technology please nominate them – it might be just the confidence and career boost they need.”

The prestigious annual WiT awards are an important showcase for women achieving outstanding results in traditionally male-dominated careers at a time when Australia is working hard to attract more women into STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) disciplines.

There are 12 award categories recognising young achievers, professionals, entrepreneurs, start-up innovators and employers who are actively encouraging female talent and promoting diversity in the technology workplace.

**Nominations close 8 June 2018** – visit wit.org.au and send an invitation to the woman you are nominating. They have a month to accept the nomination and apply. Applications close 30 June 2018.

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