



**Landgate CEO Mike Bradford, Chloe Payne, Liz Davenport and Patricia Lavater.**

*Pictures: Matthew Poon*

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**Marcia Phillips, Pat Kopusar and Beverley Rebbeck.**

## Davenport shares passion

WA fashion industry icon Liz Davenport threw her weight behind the Esther Foundation and its plans for a Kalamunda centre that will help young women during an event celebrating International Women's Day last week.

Davenport was the guest speaker at a breakfast hosted by Landgate at Caversham House in Caversham on Wednesday.

The Esther Foundation was the beneficiary of the fundraising at the event.

Davenport said some Esther Foundation participants had been models at a launch for her recently, overcoming their initial fears to debut on the catwalk.

Seventeen-year-old Chloe Payne, one of the models, has been involved with the foundation for 21 months and said she had turned her life around since finding herself in juvenile detention at 15.

"I have been shown the potential that I hold and shown how to be a woman. I have a passion to see what my future holds," she said.

Esther Foundation director Patricia Lavater spoke about how she came to establish the organisation and cases in which the foundation provides help to women.

Attendees also heard Davenport's thoughts about being one of 50 women featured in the book *Women's Words of Wisdom, Power and Passion*, which was launched this month, as well as receiving an Order of Australia Medal as part of this year's Australia Day celebrations.

"I can't quite describe the OAM. It says what I



**Jack Dawson, Michelle Pritchard and Alex Tibbitt.**

have done must be OK so now I must try harder. If I have had the wonderful life that I have, and if I can inspire others, that is my responsibility," she said.

Davenport reminisced about a career that has seen her transition from training as a school teacher to becoming a fashion agent and then an award-winning designer, following a passion that started when she learned to sew at age six.

The Gnowangerup-bred Davenport had started making her own clothes by the time she was 11.

"I used to dress up the chooks on the farm – they hated it. If character is an indication of where you end up in life – I was never a goody two shoes. I think naughtiness is part of leadership," she said.