

WOMEN'S CONSULTATIVE FORUMS — GRANTS

Statement by Minister for Women's Interests

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Women's Interests) [2.02 pm]: I rise to inform the house about the Liberal–National government's ongoing commitment to supporting women's leadership and economic independence. I have recently approved almost \$180 000 in grants for projects that align with the outcomes of the women's consultative forums, which I hosted in 2015. The forums brought together decision-makers to explore strategies to support and encourage women to remain engaged in the workforce and to enable their progression to leadership positions. Participants identified three overarching themes: linking work-ready women to employment, upskilling and retraining; promoting networking and resources; and improving superannuation awareness.

In 2015–16, \$85 000 was allocated for the women's grants program. The 18 approved projects include planning and managing a food business, retirement income planning, financial literacy for women who are victims of domestic violence or homeless and an education program that will be delivered by radio. The Liberal–National government has also supported additional one-off grants to progress the forum outcomes. A grant of \$50 000 was approved for the Consortium for Diversity at Work to part-fund the development and delivery of half-day workshops in non-metropolitan areas, which will include training in financial literacy and retirement planning for female small business owners. Dress for Success Perth will receive \$20 000 for 10 career support workshops, which will provide support and skills training for women who have taken extended breaks from the workforce. It will also cover networking skills to grow participants' confidence. I have also approved a grant of \$24 720 for Women in Leadership Driving Change for the re-energising of women to re-enter the workforce program, which will deliver four one-day seminars over 12 months for women looking to re-enter the workforce after a long break. Sessions will be delivered in Boronia and Bandyup prisons, the Perth metropolitan area and the Peel region. The target group includes women wanting to start a small business, carers, young women starting their careers, new migrants, women in career transitions and women returning to the community from prison. I look forward to continuing to assist in the development of the capacity of women in our community as Minister for Women's Interests.