

**WOMEN'S INTERESTS —  
TRAINING AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT —  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM — NON-TRADITIONAL INDUSTRIES**

*Statement by Minister for Women's Interests*

**MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Women's Interests)** [9.05 am]: Earlier this year I informed the house about an exciting initiative for both the training and workforce development and women's interests portfolios. At the last election the state government committed \$1.2 million to fund 400 scholarships to encourage women into non-traditional industries and trade occupations in which they make up less than 25 per cent of the total workforce. The scholarship program is a joint initiative between the Department of Training and Workforce Development, the Department of Local Government and Communities and the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund. The scholarship can be used for things such as student fees, learning resources, mentoring, accommodation, transport and childcare fees.

It is with great pleasure that I can report we had overwhelming interest from women across the state and have awarded 100 scholarships so far. The inaugural round of the program attracted more than 150 applications from women aged between 18 and 59. Regional members will be encouraged to hear that 45 scholarships were awarded across the state's regional areas. The successful women will be undertaking study in a range of industry areas, including construction, creative and leisure industries, as well as finance, administration and professional services.

I would like to briefly outline the stories of just two successful applicants to illustrate the scope and impact of this initiative. Diana from Clarkson will be studying a certificate IV in building and construction and will use the scholarship to follow her dream of becoming a site manager in the building and construction industry. Chalani from Yokine will be studying a certificate IV in information technology networking. Chalani migrated to Australia from Sri Lanka in mid-2014 with her husband and infant son. Having applied for several jobs without success, Chalani realised she needed Australian qualifications and experience. After seeing an advertisement about the program, she jumped at the opportunity and is rightfully thrilled to be one of the successful applicants.

As I said in my lead-in, I am really excited about the early successes of this program and expect to soon be updating the house on more great outcomes. Applications for the second round are now open, and I encourage members to spread the word to their constituents so that they can take advantage of this fantastic opportunity.