

TRAINING — WOMEN IN NON-TRADITIONAL TRADES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

601. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Training and Workforce Development:

Can the minister please update the house on the progress of the Liberal–National government’s women in non-traditional trades scholarship program?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Vasse for this question. I know that the member for Vasse has been liaising with one of the recipients of these scholarships who lives locally in her area, and has spoken with her about the great future she sees ahead for herself in a career in which there is a low representation of women—which is precisely the reason we initiated this scholarship program. The program is worth \$1.2 million and will award 400 recipients over four years to assist them with entering into training programs in areas within which there is a low representation of women. So far, over 200 women have taken advantage of this scholarship program and are being trained for future careers across a diverse range of skills in areas within which we see low participation rates for women, such as a diploma of engineering, a diploma of building and construction, a diploma of systems analysis and design, and a certificate III in process plant operation.

I was recently at the Australian Centre for Energy and Process Training facility at South Metropolitan TAFE talking to three amazing young women, one of whom was one of our scholarship recipients. She is now looking forward to a career in plant processing in the liquefied natural gas sector as a result of our program. She has moved in her studies from a certificate III in process plant operations into a diploma of engineering and continues to improve herself to ensure that she can make a great career for herself in an area within which there is a low participation rate for women.

Members will be pleased to note that we have recipients of the scholarships across the state, including in the south west, Kalgoorlie, Geraldton and Broome. There has been a broad uptake across a wide geographical base. Out of this, we will start to see a critical mass achieved for women for participation in these industries, which will then allow for role models to be out in the community encouraging other young women to take advantage of this program. I know that there is criticism from those opposite, but on this side of the house we have created opportunities to ensure that women have a pathway to re-employment if they have been out of the employment market for a while, and we are engaging with young women in year 12 who are just leaving school to ensure that there are opportunities for them and future career pathways that will be lucrative and provide long-term employment. This is as opposed to those opposite. How many times do members think Labor’s job plan mentions the word “woman”? Zero. There is nothing in Labor’s jobs plan for women in Western Australia! Look forward to more initiatives from this side of the house.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cockburn.

Mr F.M. LOGAN: We are doing jobs for only one gender!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for West Swan! I call you to order for the first time. Member for Warnbro, I call you to order for the first time. Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the first time. Does anyone want a second time?