

### **ASPIRING ENTREPRENEURSHIP INITIATIVE**

*Statement by Minister for Women's Interests*

**MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Women's Interests)** [12.02 pm]: I rise to inform the house about a series of events taking place in June for WA women interested in entrepreneurship. The Liberal–National government is proud to support women's economic independence, which not only improves choices for women, but also contributes to their financial security in later life. Entrepreneurship is a pathway for women to achieve economic independence, while providing the flexibility that many women need.

The annual Inspiring Entrepreneurship Luncheon is an initiative of the Department of Local Government and Communities, with support from the Small Business Development Corporation and the Department of State Development. This event recognises the achievements of women in enterprise and is also an opportunity for networking with innovative Western Australian businesspeople. The inspirational speakers this year will talk about their journeys as female entrepreneurs, with a particular emphasis on technology-based business. They include Sharon Grosser, who co-founded SEQTA, which develops educational software that is used in many Western Australian schools; Louise Daw, who co-founded MiPlan, which provides software solutions to the resources sector; and Vanya Cullen, who has transformed her family winery to incorporate certified biodynamic, carbon neutral and naturally powered principles. These businesswomen will share their success stories and the challenges they have encountered along the way.

Women who are inspired to become entrepreneurs need support and guidance to foster their ideas and develop their business skills. The Aspiring Entrepreneurship initiative delivers a free forum and workshop to women in small business, aspiring female entrepreneurs and business students. Forum participants will hear from women who have each achieved impressive success in their business. At the workshop that follows, women have the opportunity to learn the basics of business finance. Many women are unsure how to turn their great ideas into a successful business. The Department of Local Government and Communities will partner with the Small Business Development Corporation to deliver this initiative.

This is a great initiative that aligns with our policy objectives of improving leadership opportunities and economic independence for women in Western Australia. I am very pleased to support these events as Minister for Women's Interests.