



## 2014-15 Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

**Hon Heidi Victoria MP**

Minister for Women's Affairs

23 May 2014, 2:00 to 2:30 pm

## Women's Affairs Priorities 2014-16: Economic participation, leadership & recognition

| PRIORITIES   | CURRENT ACTION   | BENEFITS AND OUTCOMES FOR WOMEN   |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b>ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION</b></p> <p>Harnessing the potential of women in a growing Victorian economy</p> | <p><b>The Women's Economic Participation Action Agenda 2013-15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pathways into Employment</b></li> <li>• <b>Social Enterprise and Small Business</b></li> <li>• <b>Non- Traditional Pathways</b></li> <li>• <b>Pathways to Exit *</b></li> </ul> | <p>Increased choice and financial independence for women</p> <p>Helping women to create jobs for themselves and others, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds</p> <p>More girls and women realising opportunities in the Victorian economy through non-traditional occupations</p> |

\* Pathways to Exit was a CAV program pre 2014-15

# Women's Affairs Priorities 2014-16: Economic participation, leadership & recognition

| PRIORITIES   | CURRENT ACTION  | BENEFITS AND OUTCOMES FOR WOMEN   |
|--|---|---|
| <p><b>LEADERSHIP AND RECOGNITION</b></p> <p>Building the capacity of women from diverse backgrounds to pursue leadership opportunities in government, business and the community</p> | <p><b>Women in Leadership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Victorian Women's Governance Scholarship Program</b></li> <li>• <b>Victorian Honour Roll of Women</b></li> <li>• <b>Women on Boards - Victorian Women's Register</b></li> <li>• <b>Queen Victoria Women's Trust</b></li> <li>• <b>Rural Women's e-newsletter</b></li> </ul> | <p>Helping women to be leaders in business and the community</p> <p>Recognising the contribution of women to Victoria's economy and community</p> <p>Increased support for the Victorian Government's target that 50 per cent of all new and re-appointments to government boards and committees are women</p> <p>Support for women in rural and regional Victoria to share news about events and opportunities and the achievements of women</p> |

## \$2.4m - Women's Economic Participation Action Agenda 2013 – 15

### Key Facts

#### Funded in the 2011-12 budget, this includes:

- **Pathways into Employment:** \$900,000 over 2 years to assist 180 women into sustainable employment
- **Social Enterprise and Small Business:** \$900,000 over 2 years to support more than 400 women to develop their business and leadership skills
- **Non Traditional Pathways:** \$224,000 over 2 years to support up to 340 women's participation in non traditional careers and industries

#### What women have said:

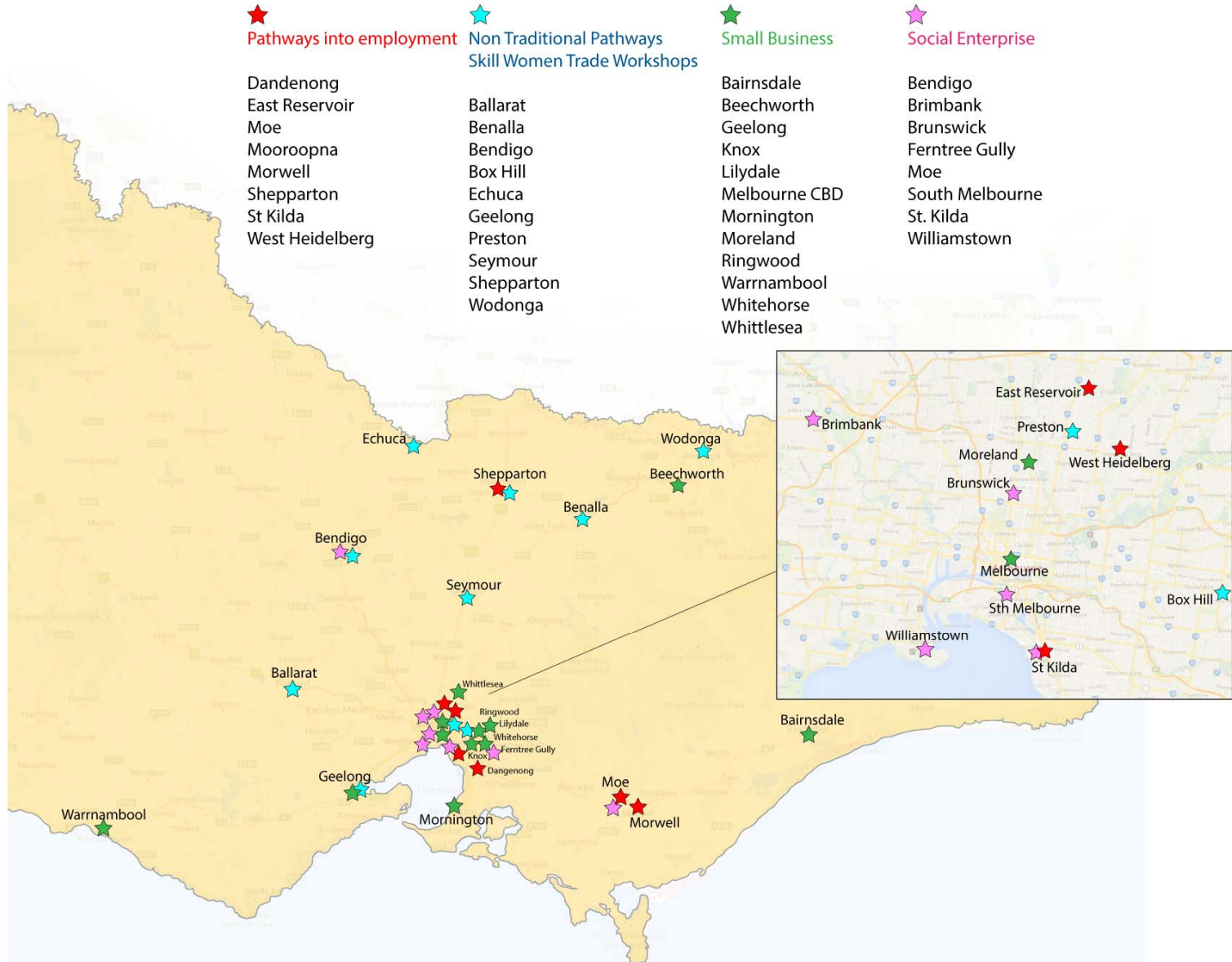
*"The Women in Business Workshop came along when my faith in the business was starting to waiver. I was almost ready to throw my hands up and walk away. At that crucial crossroads I came across the Women in Business Workshop. It's a great program and has helped me regain focus, interest and faith in my business abilities."*

**Carly Clark, Managing Director – Pikapu**

*"I am truly appreciative ...I respect the professionalism and in the manner you present and engage with people in your workshop...Thank-you for the experience."*

**2014 Small Business participant**

# Women's Economic Participation Action Agenda 2013-15 - Map of Locations



## Leadership and Recognition

### Key Facts

- **The Victorian Women's Governance Scholarships program:** \$374,000 over 2 years to assist 34 women each year. In 2014 half (17) of the women are from rural and regional areas.

Survey responses to date indicate:

- 17.9% were from a culturally and linguistically diverse background
- 3.6% were indigenous.

In 2014-15 this will become an ongoing program.

### What women have said:

*"The Australian Institute of Company Directors Course was the best training I have ever done. It was stimulating, educational and interactive and has left a lasting impression on me."*

*"A great opportunity for rural and regional women to enhance their skills and subsequently add value back to their communities."*

*"A marvellous initiative to increase the skills of a wider pool of women to increase female Board representation. Having this qualification contributed to my success in being selected to the Board."*

### 2014 Scholarship recipients

## Leadership and Recognition

### Key Facts

- **The Victorian Honour Roll of Women:** recognises 20 exceptional women annually, with 538 Victorian women inducted to the Honour Roll since 2001.

### What women have said:

*“I’m so grateful and honoured by the whole process of being included in the Honour Roll ...It was truly a wonderful and humbling experience to be in the company of such inspiring women and to celebrate their achievements in improving the lives of others.”*



### **2014 Honour Roll inductee and disability activist, Lynne Coulson Barr**

Lynne has been appointed as Victoria’s first Mental Health Complaints Commissioner and will take up her new role on 1 July 2014

# Leadership and Recognition

## Key Facts

### •Victorian Women’s Register:

An electronic database of over 2,300 skilled, board ready women

## Key Facts

### •Queen Victoria Women’s Trust:

\$323,000 annually to support over 10,000 women access the Queen Victoria Women’s Centre for information and education. The Centre has ten tenants: BreaCan, Ovarian Cancer Australia, Fitted for Work, Centre Against Sexual Assault House, The Council of Single Mothers and their Children Inc, Domestic Violence Victoria, Emily’s List, Positive Leadership International, Victorian Immigrant and Refugee Women’s Coalition, Foundation to Prevent Violence Against Women and their Children

## Key Facts

### •Rural Women’s Network E-Newsletter:

Distributed to over 1,100 initial subscribers to celebrate and acknowledge the achievements of rural and regional women





## 2014-15 budget outcome

### Key Facts

**\$1.4 million** over four years:



- **\$0.8 million to continue the Victorian Women’s Governance Scholarship Program**

- Ongoing support for 34 women annually to assist them to serve on the boards of Victorian Government not-for-profit organisations
- Contributes to the Women’s Economic Participation Action Agenda 2013-15

- **\$0.6 million to continue the Pathways to Exit Program**

- Funding over two years to support more than 60 sex workers to leave the industry and secure new work, education and training

## 2014-15 budget outcome – new initiatives across government for women

### Key Facts

- **Improving health outcomes for at risk pregnant women and their babies:** \$10.2 million over four years for targeted support, including home visits and community support, for at risk pregnant women
- **Community residential and drug withdrawal service for mothers with babies:** \$4 million over three years for a residential independent living unit to be established for mothers withdrawing from drug and alcohol dependencies
- **Targeted Women's Correctional Response:** \$7.0 million over 2014-15 to provide specialist mental health care to improve the outcomes for women prisoners
- **Addressing violence against women and children:** \$22.7 million to improve the response to family violence by educating workers, expanding access to support and collaboration and coordination across professionals

## Concluding Remarks

What women have said:

*"I have found the Women in Business workshops and homework invaluable...very informative...it helped me better understand ways to effectively run my business.....You often get swept up in the day to day running of the business, without being able to step aside and actually see what is going on. Workshops like this (at the subsidised rate) are a great opportunity to help sustain and expand the business."*

**Sprinkle Emporium, East Brunswick**

*"I believe that diversity and different perspectives around the discussion table make for good decision-making.....My generation of women must contribute to the decision-making for agriculture at the industry level."*

**Merna Curnow, 2014 Honour Roll of Women Inductee and  
Laanecoorie grain and prime lamb farmer**



**Merna Curnow**

*"I am extremely grateful and pleased to have been successful in receiving a professional development scholarship, and I look forward to participating in this opportunity and further improving my skills in this area".*

**Miriam Bass, National Council of Jewish Women of Australia (Vic)**