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New campaign promotes opportunities for women in trades

The Cook Labor Government wants more women working in trades, launching a campaign to promote its Women in Trades Scholarship Program to increase participation in well-paying jobs in Western Australia's diversified economy.

- Women in Trades Scholarship Program applications open
- \$5,000 to help reduce financial barriers women face when training and upskilling
- One-hundred places available in 2026 across five TAFEs, including in regional areas
- Cook Government building a skilled and productive workforce

The Cook Labor Government wants more women working in trades, launching a campaign to promote its Women in Trades Scholarship Program to increase participation in well-paying jobs in Western Australia's diversified economy.

The \$2 million program offers a \$5,000 scholarship payment for each place to fund up to 400 places over four years for women enrolled in eligible apprenticeships, traineeships or qualifications at Western Australian TAFE colleges.

It is designed to encourage more women into roles with low female participation across building and construction, science, technology, engineering and maths.

The \$5,000 Women in Trades Scholarship Program will be promoted online through social media and streaming services and on radio.

The campaign follows the successful "You can make it here" campaign which highlights the diverse career pathways made possible thanks to more than 250 fee-free and low-fee courses available at WA's TAFE colleges.

The Women in Trades Scholarship can be used to cover expenses such as course fees, learning resources, tools, workwear and personal protective equipment, work tickets and licences, transport, accommodation and childcare.

Scholarship recipients also receive tailored mentoring and support services to assist them in completing their qualifications and successfully transitioning into employment.

Women are underrepresented in some industries - particularly those that have long been considered male-dominated, where women make up less than 25 per cent of the workforce.

Making training more accessible enhances women's economic participation and workforce equality in industries such as building and construction, clean energy, manufacturing, defence, automotive, electrical and mining.

Applications are now open across the five WA TAFE colleges for the 100 Women in Trades Scholarships available in 2026.

More information on the Women in Trades Scholarship is available via: tafe.wa.edu.au/scholarships .

Comments attributed to Skills and TAFE Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson:

"The Cook Government is committed to providing affordable and accessible training opportunities for all Western Australians.

"We are diversifying our economy and creating well-paying, quality jobs. Support through our Women In Trades scholarships helps women to make the most of these job opportunities.

"We want them to get the right skills to break into a well-paid, high-demand job."

Comments attributed to Women Minister Simone McGurk:

"Making training more accessible to all Western Australians is a priority of the Cook Government.

"Breaking down the stereotypes and reducing any barriers for women in industries that have long been considered male dominated is vital.

"We want to encourage more women into industries such as building and construction, science, technology, engineering and maths.

"These scholarships are a fantastic initiative to help reduce the financial burden women can face when training or upskilling."

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Ministers



[Hon. Amber-Jade Sanderson](#)

Minister for Energy and Decarbonisation; Manufacturing; Skills and TAFE; Pilbara



[Hon. Simone McGurk](#)

Minister for Creative Industries; Heritage; Industrial Relations; Aged Care and Seniors; Women
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