



Women in STEM Cadetships and Advanced Apprenticeships Higher Education Support – amendments

The Australian Government will extend the existing Women in STEM Cadetships and Advanced Apprenticeships program for an additional two years through to 2026-27 to allow more time for women to participate.

The program provides \$25.1 million to support employed women to pursue an industry-relevant pre-bachelor higher education qualification in science, technology engineering, and maths (STEM) fields, part-time.

Why is this important?

The Government is committed to advancing gender equality as a national priority and closing gender gaps in the community and the workforce.

The Women in STEM program aims to increase the number of STEM qualified women in the labour force, and to assist employers to upskill workers with job-relevant skills.

Who will benefit?

The disruption caused by COVID-19 limited the number of people able to participate when the initiative was first established in 2020-21.

Extending the Women in STEM program for a further period will provide more women the opportunity to participate and gain important STEM qualifications.

It will also help deliver a better trained, more productive, workforce by enabling businesses to maintain employment while supporting women to upskill or reskill to take advantage of future workforce opportunities.

The initiative supports the Government's focus on achieving greater diversity in Australia's science and technology sectors and building Australia's STEM workforce capabilities.

How much will it cost?

There is no cost associated with extending the Women in STEM program and reprofiling existing funding to support its operation for a further two years.