

Women

Once again, the WA State Budget does not demonstrate a meaningful commitment to advancing outcomes for women. While it includes targeted measures, it lacks the scale and coordination needed to address structural gender inequality and the complex challenges experienced by women across Western Australia.

We welcome the inclusion of the election commitment to increase funding for Women's Health Centres, announced in the 2025–26 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO), as an important step toward strengthening access to gender-responsive healthcare.

However, overall investment in 'supporting WA women' remains largely limited to incremental expansions of existing programs in health, workforce participation and family and domestic violence. There is a clear gap in initiatives that strengthen women's financial security, increase participation in secure and well-paid work, and tackle the underlying drivers of economic inequality. There is limited investment to improve pay, conditions and career progression in female-dominated industries, alongside insufficient action on the systemic barriers affecting women's workforce participation and long-term financial stability.

Initiative	Group Training Organisation Wage Subsidy Program (BP2, V1, P362, P363) (BP3, P136, P139, P189)
Investment	\$19.6 million over four years.
Description	330 additional places under the Group Training Organisation (GTO) Wage Subsidy Program comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 additional places at a 75 per cent subsidy for women in electrical trades • 205 additional places at a 50 per cent subsidy • 75 additional places at a 75 per cent subsidy for priority cohorts
Implications	Seeks to address the underrepresentation of women in trades and technical occupations.

Initiative	Women's Grants for a Stronger Future Program (BP2, V2, P483)
Investment	\$1 million over two years.
Description	Funding for the or the continuation of the Women's Grants for a Stronger Future Program.
Implications	An initiative to support community-led projects that improve outcomes for women.

Initiative	Mental Awareness, Respect and Safety (MARS) Program <i>(BP3, P152) (BP3, P159)</i>
Investment	\$10 million over two years.
Description	Funding for the continuation of the MARS program to create safer workplaces and eliminate unacceptable behaviour such as bullying and sexual harassment in WA's mining industry.
Implications	<i>Continuation of a program to prevent harassment and discrimination of women in the mining workforce.</i>