



FACTSHEET

Women in STEM and Entrepreneurship (WISE)

The Women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and Entrepreneurship program encourages women's participation in STEM education and careers and in the broader innovation ecosystem focussing on entrepreneurial activities and careers.

What does it offer?

The program was announced as part of Inspiring all Australians in Digital Literacy and STEM. It is a competitive program and the Australian Government has allocated \$8 million for the first four years from 2016-17 to 2019-20. This is the second round of the program. Future rounds will depend on available program funds.

The program funds activities that support women in STEM, and eliminate barriers for women's participation in STEM education and careers, including as entrepreneurs. It targets challenges for women's participation in STEM, and in the broader innovation ecosystem – including innovative businesses, start-ups and other entrepreneurial activities and careers.

Funding will support projects that target girls and women to:

- foster interest in STEM and entrepreneurship
- increase participation in STEM and entrepreneurship studies and careers
- develop innovation and entrepreneurial skills
- build professional networks in STEM and entrepreneurship
- gain senior executive and leadership positions and increase the number of female entrepreneurs.

How does it work?

To be eligible to apply your project must:

- include eligible activities that address discrimination against or inequality for girls and women in STEM and entrepreneurship
- have at least \$5,000 total eligible expenditure
- take no longer than 24 months to complete.

Who can apply?

To be eligible to apply you must have an ABN and be one of the following:

- an entity incorporated in Australia
- a Publicly Funded Research Organisation (PFRO)
- a government or non-government vocational education and training (VET) provider, or technical and further education (TAFE) institution
- a not for profit organisation that is registered, or that will register prior to receiving funding if successful, with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission.

Joint applications are acceptable, provided you have a lead applicant who is the main driver of the project and is eligible as per the list above.

Who is not eligible to apply?

- primary or secondary schools (however they may apply as part of a joint application if the lead applicant is eligible)
- an individual or trust (however an incorporated trustee may apply on behalf of a trust)
- government agencies and bodies including government business enterprises
- organisations currently receiving funding through a previous round of the program

What activities are eligible?

Eligible activities must directly relate to the project and can include

- developing and delivering workshops, conferences, networking events and other forums
- developing and delivering education and professional development activities including courses and training
- developing and distributing educational materials, curriculum content, toolkits or similar activities
- developing and delivering change management programs and industry transformation activities
- research activities provided they are directly in support of the activities above.

How will my application be assessed?

If eligible, we will assess your application against the Women in STEM and Entrepreneurship merit criteria.

To be competitive you must score highly against all of the following criteria

- expected impact and benefits of the project
- demonstrated capacity and capability to carry out the project
- impact of grant funding on your project

What will I need to do if successful?

You will need to sign a grant agreement with the Australian Government. The terms and conditions of the grant agreement are not negotiable.

- the grant agreement requires you to report on your completed activities
- for grants up to \$50,000, the entire grant amount will be paid on execution of the grant agreement
- for grants over \$50,000, an initial payment will be made on execution of the grant agreement, with subsequent payments based on the progress of your project

How do I apply?

You should read the program guidelines before you apply.

To apply you must

- complete the online application form
- address all eligibility and merit criteria
- submit your application by the advertised closing date

Where can I find more information?

Visit business.gov.au/WISE or call 13 28 46.