

Media Release

The Hon Gayle Tierney MP
Minister for Training and Skills
Minister for Higher Education
Minister for Agriculture



Tuesday, 29 August 2023

EMPOWERING FIRST NATIONS WOMEN TO PURSUE NATIVE FOODS

The Andrews Labor Government is supporting First Peoples women learn new skills so they can enter the native foods and botanical sector.

Minister for Agriculture Gayle Tierney today announced up to 10 scholarships are available for indigenous women to attend the 'Pathways to Sovereignty' First Nations Bushfoods and Botanicals Conference in Darwin.

Held in November, conference attendees will be given the opportunity to engage in practical lessons and discuss leadership across the native foods sector, while joining a forum related to the issues affecting First Nations women in agriculture.

The Labor Government has provided \$50,000 in scholarship funding to support costs associated attending the event – it will also help the First Nations Bushfoods and Botanicals Alliance Australia (FNBBAA) deliver networking events for Victorian Aboriginal women working in native foods.

To apply for a scholarship to attend the Conference visit: fnbbaa.org.au/2023-symposium.

For more information about Aboriginal agriculture in Victoria visit: agriculture.vic.gov.au/about/strengthening-aboriginal-communities.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Gayle Tierney

"We recognise the vital role First Nations women have in leading and growing Victoria's commercial native foods and botanicals sector."

"I encourage all First Nations women in Victoria with an interest in native foods and botanicals to apply for a scholarship and progress their career in agriculture."

Quote attributable to FNBBAA Victorian Director Sharon Brindley

"The Victorian Native Foods sector is currently going through a period of growth, productivity and development."

"The First Nations Bushfoods and Botanicals Symposium in Darwin will play an integral role in leveraging the presence of women within the industry and enabling a stronger collective of First Nations businesses Australia-wide."