

# Media Release

**The Hon Natalie Hutchins MP**  
Minister for Jobs and Industry  
Minister for Treaty and First Peoples  
Minister for Women



Monday, 3 June 2024

## EMPOWERING DIVERSE WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

The Allan Labor Government is empowering women from a range of diverse backgrounds to reach their leadership aspirations, with applications now open for two programs that support culturally diverse women right across the state into leadership roles.

Minister for Women Natalie Hutchins today announced that applications are now open for the Women of Colour Executive Leadership Program which is backed by an \$180,000 investment by the Labor Government to support the nation-leading program.

The Labor Government knows that your gender should not determine your choices in life – education, career opportunities, financial security and health should all be equally accessible regardless of your gender.

Women of colour face additional barriers in their careers and the Women of Colour Executive Leadership Program provides tangible support for those working in a range of sectors including not-for-profit and community sectors, corporate and the Victorian Public Service.

The 2024 program will support 16 women to navigate the unique barriers that women of colour face through workshops, mentoring and coaching.

Previous participants include Arshin Zaman, an engineer who is passionate about improving diversity, equity and inclusion across the industry, and Lama Tiavo who is a manager in a private sector consultancy, leading work on commercial strategies across the country.

The Labor Government was the first to introduce gender responsive budgeting in 2021 and continues to drive change to make the world a fairer place for women and girls.

To learn more about the program and apply, visit [vic.gov.au/women-colour-executive-leadership-program](https://vic.gov.au/women-colour-executive-leadership-program).

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Women Natalie Hutchins

*"We're breaking down barriers for women of all backgrounds by giving them access to tangible programs that drive real change across every sector in Victoria."*

*"We are empowering diverse women to forge ahead in their careers. The focus of these programs is to create an equal state for women and girls regardless of their cultural background."*

### Quote attributable to Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ingrid Stitt

*"Having culturally diverse leadership enables organisations to get the best outcomes. This program will unlock the potential of women across a variety of sectors to step into or continue their leadership journey."*