

Media Release

The Hon Ros Spence MP
Minister for Agriculture
Minister for Community Sport
Minister for Carers and Volunteers



Wednesday, 7 August 2024

CHAMPIONING WOMEN IN THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

The Allan Labor Government is backing more women in the agriculture industry to claim their space in leadership and decision-making positions through the Victorian Rural Women's Network Leadership and Mentoring program.

Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence today opened applications for the Victorian Rural Women's Network's 2024 Leadership and Mentoring Program.

The program seeks to increase the representation of women in agricultural leadership roles by fostering their leadership capabilities, enhancing their skills, and instilling confidence in decision making.

Twenty women will have the opportunity to participate in specialised mentorship and leadership training, learning from influential leaders across industry and government.

As a traditionally male industry, women have made up approximately a third of agriculture sector workforce for a decade and remain proportionally under-represented in leadership roles.

The training is tailored to the unique challenges and opportunities faced by women in agriculture, providing participants with the tools, support and visibility they need to be leaders in their industry and communities.

The program curriculum will cover effective leadership and advocacy, government and private sector decision making, and setting career advancement goals.

Accommodation, childcare, and travel costs will be covered in acknowledgement of the financial barriers that many women face which can prevent participation in leadership programs.

The government has invested \$1.4 million into The Victorian Rural Women's Network to remove barriers to women's workforce participation, including initiatives that support women's economic security.

To learn more about the program or apply visit agriculture.vic.gov.au.

Quote attributable to Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence

"Whether aspiring to leadership or seeking to make a broader impact in the agriculture sector, the Leadership and Mentoring Program provides women with the foundation for accelerated career and leadership growth."

Quote attributable to Minister for Women Natalie Hutchins

"The program is a fantastic opportunity for women in agriculture to invest in their careers, expand their networks, and contribute to a more inclusive, representative, and innovative industry landscape."

Quotes attributable to Rural Women's Network's Leadership Program Alumni Libbe Paton

"The Leadership and Mentoring Program encouraged me to be brave and know my value and strengths, with each session allowing us to enhance what we knew, gain new ideas and grow in a safe environment."

"If you're considering an application, then you are already thinking about what you could learn and where the program could take your leadership - you should definitely apply."

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