

Media release

MCA supports #EachforEqual by backing young Indigenous women and more female mining leaders

Statement from Chief Executive Officer Tania Constable

The MCA is taking practical action for equality through a new partnership with the Stars Foundation to empower young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls and young women and a new round of scholarships for exceptional women in Australian mining.

The Stars Foundation supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls and women to make more active choices towards realising their full potential. Its evidence-based program supports students at 15 Northern Territory, Queensland and Victorian schools with plans for expansion.

The MCA has chosen to partner with the Stars Foundation in addition to its existing partnership with the Clontarf Foundation because both organisations get results and make a positive difference.

The Stars Foundation has offered full-time, in-school mentoring and engagement programs for young Indigenous women at risk of disengagement from school since 2015.

With 91 per cent of senior Stars students completing year 12 in 2019, there are great opportunities ahead for the MCA and Stars Foundation to work together to promote career choices in Australian mining, celebrate First Nations cultures and support better education, health and employment outcomes.

The MCA also works with Indigenous Women in Mining and Resources Australia to increase the visibility of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in the minerals industry and celebrate their immense contributions.

Ahead of International Women's Day – with its #EachforEqual theme focused on individual responsibility and equality being a core business issue – the MCA has also opened applications for the next round of scholarships for Exceptional Women in Australian Mining.

These scholarships aim to increase female participation on company boards within the minerals industry by providing two women with the opportunity to complete the highly respected Australian Institute of Company Directors Company Directors Course through scholarships valued at \$12,000. 18 women have benefited from the MCA's AICD scholarship program since 2012.

The course includes topics on effective decision-making, the legal aspects of directorship, financial literacy and strategy as well as putting the lessons into practice.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, women with disabilities and women from regional Australia working in or with the minerals industry are encouraged to apply.

To be eligible, applicants must be Australian-based and be nominated by an MCA member or associate member company. Application forms can be downloaded [here](#)

A more diverse Australian minerals industry – including more female leaders and more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women – is a stronger industry.

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