

Question on Notice

No. 690

Asked on 17 July 2015

MRS LAUGA asked the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (HON S FENTIMAN)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister update the House on what the Palaszczuk Government is doing to provide greater opportunities for women in Queensland?

ANSWER

The Queensland Government is committed to gender equality in all aspects of society, to promote and protect women's rights, interests and wellbeing, and to ensure women's full social and economic participation in society.

Importantly, the Government values the contributions women make to Queensland and recognises women do this in many ways.

The Palaszczuk Government is delivering a range of initiatives to ensure women and girls have education and training, career, social and cultural opportunities available to them.

These include:

- increasing the number of women on government boards and committees to ensure women are represented at all levels of leadership through the setting of targets:
 - 50 per cent of all new board appointees to Queensland Government bodies to be women.
 - 50 per cent representation of women on Queensland Government bodies by 2020.

Initiatives include enhancing the female talent pipeline, building women's capacity to take up board and other leadership roles, breaking down barriers for women to enter the boardroom and driving cultural change.

Already we've seen the number of Queensland women interested in these roles grow exponentially. Since 23 May 2015, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet has received 278 new applications for registration to be on the Queensland Register of Nominees from women, being 66 per cent of the total received

- developing a whole-of-Government Queensland Women's Strategy focused on gender equality
- establishing the first Queensland Women's Week in 2016 to recognise and celebrate the extraordinary accomplishments of our women and girls
- responding to the *Not Now, Not Ever: Putting an End to Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland* report, and implementing a range of activities to tackle domestic and family violence, including improving service system integration and delivering timely, holistic responses to women affected by domestic and family violence
- delivering the Queensland Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow – Home Based Business grants program – \$1 million in grants over three years to stay-at-home parents to establish or grow home-based businesses, while keeping a healthy balance between work and family. The current funding round will open on 24 August 2015, with funding of up to \$5000 (excluding GST) provided to successful applicants

- implementing the \$180 million Advance Queensland initiative to position Queensland as a leader in the knowledge economy and create jobs now and for the future, including programs (such as the recently released Advance Queensland Research Fellowships) providing support to women in the knowledge economy through effective participation in science and technology industries.

\$1.1 million has been allocated in the 2015–16 State Budget to rebuild the Office for Women to work with government and non-government organisations to enable women to fully take-up social and economic opportunities and to identify great opportunities for Queensland's women and girls.

To inform development of the Queensland Women's Strategy we will engage across government, community and women's organisations. We will listen to what women have to say and work together to develop solutions.

As Minister for Women I am committed to improving gender equality and determined to increase women's leadership roles, not just in the government sector, but in industry and across all levels of our community.