

Recommendation Paper

How Women Owned Businesses Impact Women's Economic Security

ISSUE

Women owned and run businesses are a large and growing segment of the Australian business sector. Targeted policies directed at these businesses could enhance the economic security of women. A company with a [female founder and a female executive will hire 6x more women](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Government's [Entrepreneurs' Program](#) has had a positive effect on women's businesses. Adjustments to the access criteria would enable more businesses to gain expert support. In particular:

- Reduce the turnover threshold to participate for women owned businesses to the same level as rural and Northern Australia - \$750,000.
- Women owned businesses (at least 50% female owned) to be recognised as a Growth Sector of the economy and therefore eligible for the program.

RATIONALE

The recommendations directly support the Federal Government's Strategy – [Towards 2025: An Australian Government's Strategy to Boost Women's Workforce Participation](#).

The report concluded: "Successive Intergenerational Reports have highlighted the importance of higher women's workforce participation to improving Australia's productivity and prosperity, and to reduce the fiscal pressures associated with providing welfare support to an ageing population."

"Some research shows the economic independence that employment provides can also assist women's decisions to leave violent relationships. It can bring financial security, confidence and, therefore, safety."

IMPLEMENTATION

The Entrepreneurs' Program already has funding, a national network of contracts and facilitators and an evidence base of successfully growing Australian businesses. All that is needed is to change the eligibility criteria below, update the internal systems, and communicate the eligibility change to the national network of facilitators.

eS4W partner Femeconomy, will continue to identify relevant businesses that meet the eligibility criteria and refer them into the program.

CONCLUSION

This would be a low cost and important reform using an existing policy framework, that would help support businesses owned and run by women. In addition to supporting the economic security of women, it would be a key small business initiative that would boost productivity and growth in the economy.

Resource – [How Women Owned Business Impact Women's Economic Security Discussion Paper](#)