

CDAA Supports Move to Increase Women in STEM Careers

28 June 2016

The Career Development Association of Australia (CDAA) supports a push by the Coalition Government to increase the numbers of women and girls in STEM careers.

If re-elected, the Government has promised to invest \$31.2 million in internships and post-school career advice to support women and girls choosing to work and study in STEM industries.

CDAA spokesperson Rebecca Fraser said government policies like this are necessary to fulfilling future skills shortfalls expected in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

“With STEM industries some of the fastest-growing in Australia, it is well known that Australia needs to increase the uptake of STEM careers,” Ms Fraser said.

“Only 16 per cent of the current Australian STEM workforce are female. If we want to solve Australia’s skills shortfall we need to provide opportunities and encourage women and girls into these industries.”

As part of this week’s announcement, the Coalition has set aside \$28.2 million to fund 1,400 internships for PhD researchers and \$3 million to develop a National Career Education Strategy.

The National Career Education Strategy, released prior to the May 2016 Budget, will be developed in consultation with career professionals.

Ms Fraser said the Association looks forward to working with the Government on its initiative to improve career advice in schools if re-elected this weekend.

Meanwhile, Labor has promised \$45 million in financial incentives for STEM undergraduate students and plans to collaborate with business and universities to establish more work experience opportunities.

CDAA is pleased the Labor Party has committed to working with the careers profession on its Higher Education – Clearer Information for Parents and Student Policy.

If Labor is elected, the Association also welcomes consultation on its STEM-related policies.

STEM is currently a major focus for the careers profession and was the theme for the CDAA National Conference in May.

CDAA is also supporting an Adelaide conference on Boosting Women in Stem in Sydney on September 28th-30th.

The Career Development Association of Australia (CDAA) commenced as the Australian Association of Career Counsellors in 1989, and is Australia’s largest cross-sectoral association of career development professionals working in a diverse range of roles, delivering services in industry, government, education, employment programs and community organisations. The primary purpose of the CDAA is to support its members by leading, building and growing the career development profession.

Georgia Kelly-Bakker, Communication & Events Officer CDAA

Phone: 08 82116961

Email: communications@cdaa.org.au