



TED O'BRIEN MP Federal Member for **Fairfax**

Federal Budget 2020-21 - Snapshot for Women

Women have been particularly affected by the shedding of employment as a result of COVID-19. It is good news that 60% of the 458,000 jobs created since May have been filled by women, but there's more to do. That's why, in addition to our many economic policies equally applying to men and women, our 2020-21 Budget also includes measures specially aimed at assisting woman.

1. Helping women access jobs in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM)

We are providing \$240 million for the 2020 Women's Economic Security Statement to help women move into higher-paid professional jobs. Since women make up only 17% of STEM qualified population we are investing:

- \$25.1 million for 500 new cadetships and apprenticeships for women in STEM; and
- \$14.5 million to expand existing programs including Women in STEM, Entrepreneurship Grants Program, Girls in STEM Toolkit and Women in STEM Ambassadors.

2. Supporting women to develop leadership skills

As part of our \$50 million Women@Work initiative, we are expanding the existing Women's Leadership and Development Program and also two proven initiatives:

- Master Builders Australia's Women Building Australia program to support more women into the highly male-dominated building and construction industry; and
- Enterprising Girls program to give girls and young women across Australia the skills and opportunities to start their own businesses in the digital economy.

3. Supporting female entrepreneurs to build their business

An additional \$35.9 million will be invested in the existing Boosting Female Founders Initiative to support up to 282 additional start-ups and 4,300 women entrepreneurs.

4. Supporting working parents

We are providing more support for working families to access childcare and we are temporarily extending the Paid Parental Leave work test period to 20 months (600 days). This \$130 million commitment will support parents who do not meet the current work test provisions due to COVID-19. The ParentsNext program will continue to support parents returning to paid work.

5. Helping to keep women safe at work

We are investing \$2.1 million in the new Respect@Work Council to tackle workplace sexual harassment, providing funding for new tools and training to create safe workplaces for all.

6. Providing safe places for women and children escaping domestic violence

In addition to our \$150 million COVID-19 domestic violence response package, we will provide 700 new and expanded emergency accommodation places as part of the \$340 million National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children.

For more information, please visit www.budget.gov.au