



Media release

The Honourable Ian Walker MP Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts

Partnership boosts technology careers for women

A new partnership is set to highlight and support the profile of women working in technology careers, with the Queensland Government forging an agreement with the Women in Technology (WiT) industry association.

Information Technology Minister Ian Walker said the whole-of-government partnership with WiT was a step toward creating a clever, creative and connected Queensland.

“Women already make a very significant contribution to Queensland’s technology industries.” Mr Walker said.

“However, research has shown that women make up less than 20 per cent of Australia’s technology workforce and higher participation rates need to be encouraged and supported.

“That’s why I applaud the work and aspirations of WiT, one of Queensland’s most respected and active technology industry associations and a peak body for women in the technology industry.”

WiT president Sue Johnston said her association was delighted with the partnership.

“We are excited to work with the government to promote, support and acknowledge women who work in the technology field.” Ms Johnston said.

Mr Walker said almost 1,400 women in the Queensland Public Service work in ICT, which is about a third of the ICT workforce in the Queensland Government, and there are many more in other fields such as life sciences.

“The Queensland Government’s partnership with WiT offers a range of benefits to them, including discounts to WiT-sponsored events, emails to staff on relevant industry subjects, member-only online support, as well as the chance to participate in the annual WiT Awards.”

Mr Walker said the government’s *Supporting Women Scholarships* program also supported women in technology, with this \$10 million program helping women gain qualifications in traditionally male-dominated industries, including ICT.

Five hundred scholarships of up to \$20,000 over four years are available, with the third round scheduled to open on 7 August. More information is available at www.supportingwomen.qld.gov.au.

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