

MEDIA RELEASE

March 08, 2013

Miners' call this International Women's Day – We need you!

As we celebrate International Women's Day, employers from across the mining, oil and gas sectors have a special message for Australian women – consider where a career in Australia's prosperous resource industry could take you.

The Australian Women in Resources Alliance (AWRA) is rolling-out a number of workforce initiatives designed to help employers attract and retain more women in the workplace, the ultimate goal being for women to comprise 25 per cent of the resource industry by 2020.

This initiative, run by resource industry employer group AMMA with support from the Australian Government, is uniting a wide range of industry organisations and professional women's groups as employers seek to fill their demand for talented workers.

"Australia's resource industry is forecasting a skills shortage of 90,000 workers by 2016. Employers across our mining, oil and gas sectors understand how critically important women are to filling this skills demand," says AMMA director of group services Tara Diamond.

"Increased gender diversity on mine sites and in oil and gas operations is a major part of the rapid development of Australia's resource industry. Employers are working hard to ensure their recruitment practices and workforce cultures appeal to all talented candidates, including women.

"We are starting to see some promising results, with hundreds of women from across the Australian resource industry having signed up for the AWRA e-Mentoring Program. This program means women entering a resource career have access to both male and female mentors through this innovative online portal."

Resource employers are also preparing to meet at the inaugural [AWRA Conference](#) on 14 May 2013 to progress practical solutions to increasing women's participation in the resource workforce.

"A recent analysis of gender diversity in the Australian resource industry revealed that while the majority of the 15.2 per cent of women in the resource workforce hold professional roles, only 10.5 per cent hold managerial positions, seven per cent are machinery operators or drivers and less than two per cent are trade workers," Ms Diamond says.

"The AWRA Conference will bring together leaders in gender diversity to canvass innovative workforce practices to build greater gender diverse workforces and get more women represented in management positions."

And where should women begin looking in order to start a new resources career?

"Industry-operated recruitment website [AMMA.miningoilandgasjobs.com](#) is the place for women to begin researching about the resource industry and applying directly to employers for a job," Ms Diamond says.

"Not only does AMMA [miningoilandgasjobs.com](#) have 1,600 vacant positions currently listed, the website's [Careers and Industry Guide](#) contains more than 1000 pages of up-to-date information covering job descriptions, lifestyle guides, training and apprenticeship information, and job interview tips."

AWRA is facilitated by AMMA with funding from the Australian Government under the National Resource Sector Workforce Strategy.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES: Contact Kylie Sully on 0409 781 580 or Kylie.Sully@amma.org.au