

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Minister Steve Whan**  
**Minister for Emergency Services**  
**Minister for Small Business**  
**Minister for Rural Affairs**



---

## **Central Coast women graduate from business mentoring program**

Friday, October 9, 2009

Member for The Entrance Grant McBride MP today congratulated 29 local businesswomen who have successfully completed the NSW Government's Women in Business Mentoring program on the Central Coast.

"The program matched the women with experienced business people in the community, and provided a combination of business skills training, networking and mentoring," Mr McBride said.

"The Women in Business Mentoring program, now in its 14th year, helps participants enhance their business knowledge and networks, and ultimately grow their businesses through developing their skills and business confidence.

"Many of the participants reported that their confidence had increased, while others were able to re-position their businesses to tackle new and emerging markets," he said.

"Through this program, the participants have taken the initiative to develop new business skills and face the challenges of building up their businesses," he said.

The Women in Business graduation ceremony will be held in the Central Coast Business Enterprise Centre in Tuggerah from 5.30 pm today.

The 29 businesses represented in the mentoring program ranged from florists, photography and pest control to book-keeping, massage and dog training.

Participants commented: "It was fast paced, interesting and simply excellent", "Thank you, clearly great knowledge, I'm a small business owner and it inspired me to plan more," and "Thank you, we now have a new direction to take our business in."

Minister for Small Business Steve Whan said the NSW Government was committed to assisting the growth of women business owners and operators.

"The NSW Government recognises that businesswomen make a significant contribution to the State's economy and is committed to giving them the necessary support to realise their commercial ambitions," he said.

Steve Whan said that since the Women in Business Program began in 1995, the number of women who own their own business had increased by 26 per cent.

"More than 5,000 female business owners have taken part in the program, helping them to grow

their businesses and create jobs in their communities.”

For further information on programs and services for women in business, visit Industry & Investment NSW's website at [www.smallbiz.nsw.gov.au](http://www.smallbiz.nsw.gov.au)

---