



**MEDIA RELEASE – 2/8/2016**

## **NRWC to Empower More Women in Primary Industry Production**

The National Rural Women's Coalition (NRWC) today launches its 2016 E-Leaders *Grow, Innovate and Sustain* Program inviting women of all ages living in rural, regional or remote (RRR) areas, who are passionate about sustainable primary industry production, to apply.

This NRWC program is supported by funding from the Australian Government and provides yet another amazing opportunity for rural, regional and remote women to grow their personal and professional leadership. Since 2012, over two hundred rural, regional and remote women have participated in various NRWC E-Leaders initiatives.

President Dr Patricia Hamilton says, "The NRWC has great pleasure in providing opportunities such as this for RRR women. Throughout these programs, we watch their professional development skyrocket. The benefits go beyond the initial leadership program. Women have ongoing access to free NRWC training and development as well as networking opportunities."

The acclaimed learning model for NRWC E-Leaders programs offers interactive workshop style sessions, in a virtual classroom, breaking through the geographical barriers that commonly see professional development from these women put in the too hard basket. "We bring the classroom to them and provide access to industry leaders from all over Australia," says Patricia. "Alongside industry's leading presenters, Julia Telford (QLD), Phil Tickle (NSW), Cathie Denehy (WA), Dr Simon Divecha (SA) and Liz Todd (QLD), participants will learn about sustainability and best practice natural resource management. The women will nominate a project to work on during the program and by the end they will have the skills to develop a sustainability management plan".

Dr Hamilton says, "It is wonderful that so many of these women continue on an on-going journey as part of the NRWC. E-Leaders Alumnae-they share their amazing journeys with us in such a productive and positive way."

Past E-Leader participant, Ana from King Island tells us, "This program is an exciting opportunity for women in primary industry production and I encourage everyone to apply". "The virtual classroom setting for e-learning is amazing. It's just like being in a classroom and yet some of us are 3000km apart. I am on track to meet my goals to the benefit of my community. The E-Leaders were and are, a great inspiration." says Ana.

Information on the E-Leaders *Grow, Innovate and Sustain* program can be found on the National Rural Women's Coalition website [www.nrwc.com.au](http://www.nrwc.com.au) Facebook page and Twitter. Women from RRR areas in agriculture, forestry and fisheries are urged to apply. Applications open on 8 August at 8am AEST and close on 19 August at 4pm AEST 2016. Apply using the online application form. Places are limited to 20.

**For further information, contact Melissa Bouly, Communications Officer [comms@nrwc.com.au](mailto:comms@nrwc.com.au) or 0437 224 212.**

### Appendix

- 1) Photo – Past E-Leader, Ana Pimenta, King Island
- 2) Photo – NRWC President Patricia Hamilton

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