

ACT WOMEN'S RETURN TO WORK GRANTS PROGRAMS

Women who have been out of the paid workforce for an extended period whilst raising a child or children may experience some barriers when attempting to re-enter the workforce.

These barriers may include:

- Accessing affordable child care
- Difficulties when arranging flexible working hours, and work environments that are discriminatory and not family friendly
- Cost of education
- Lack of skills/qualifications/experience
- Self esteem issues

The ACT Women's Return to Work Grants Program is an ACT Government initiative, which provides women returning to the paid workforce with assistance in reaching this goal. The program is funded through the ACT Office for Women, ACT Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services and is administered by the Women's Information and Referral Centre (WIRC).

The primary objective of the program is to assist women in receipt of low incomes including women who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, culturally and linguistically diverse, young or with a disability to achieve increased financial independence by helping them prepare for, obtain and maintain employment. The program is designed to provide funding for basic job readiness training, facilitate acquisition of job search skills and provide funding for women to access related support(s) with regard to potential job placements.

Individual grants of up to \$1,000 will be available for women who have been absent from the workforce for more than 12 months due to child care responsibilities.