

2016 TFTC MEDIA RELEASE – PROGRAM LAUNCH

On the 16th of June, the 2016 TFTC Mentoring Program launched for its first official year at The Vibe Hotel Canberra Airport. Almost 90 defence industry members from across Australia attended in support of the program, with Airservices Engineering Manager Alex Parkin launching the day. *“We can’t tackle diversity on our own”,* Mr Parkin said during his introductory speech. *“We need to build links and partnerships across industries and disciplines”*.

The 60 participants not only met their mentoring partners on the day, but also received a half day of training to start them on the right path towards a successful long term mentoring relationship. As reflected by Caroline Chai, a 2015 mentee that spoke on the day, *“The program provided me with tools and guidance to go forward but also relationships that I will carry with me”*.

The success of the program is due to the support of the original participating organisations; Department of Defence, Royal Australian Navy, BAE Systems, Airservices Australia, Raytheon Australia and Kinetic Recruitment, as well as the welcomed support of QinetiQ, Jacobs Australia and Lockheed Martin. This unique collaboration sees the defence sector tackling the issue of diversity head on by supporting the attraction and development of females within the engineering and project management disciplines.

“TFTC is collaboration in action in industry” – Caroline Chai, 2015 TFTC mentee.

With many industries hampered by a lack of diversity and low participation rates of suitable workers, Australia’s defence sector is leading the way.

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