

2018 TFTC MEDIA RELEASE – PROGRAM LAUNCH

Minister for Defence, Marise Payne Delivers Keynote Address at 2018 TFTC Launch

2018 TFTC Mentoring Program Launch Attendees hear from the Minister for Defence

Canberra, ACT: At 12:30pm on Thursday 3rd May, 2018, The TFTC Mentoring Program welcomed its 2018 participants and congratulated its 2017 program graduates at an official luncheon. Held at Hyatt Hotel, in Canberra, mentees and mentors from across Australia gathered to celebrate and kick-off the 12-month program.

Senior members of the Defence Sector community joined participants to show their support, with the Minister for Defence, Senator the Hon Marise Payne delivering the Keynote Address.

In her address, Minister Payne said *“I see The Future Through Collaboration mentoring program as a three-way win for the Defence Sector. The program is a win for Defence Industry, a win for Defence and a win for all the individuals involved”*.

After establishing a pilot program in 2015, the program was recognised for its valuable contribution to the Defence Industry and was awarded the Essington Lewis Award for Support/Services in 2017.

The 2018 program welcomed participants from Department of Defence, Royal Australian Navy, BAE Systems, Airservices Australia, Raytheon Australia, QinetiQ, Jacobs, Nova Systems, KBR, and Beca.

The TFTC Mentoring Program is a unique collaboration, the only program of its kind which aims to tackle the issue of diversity head on by supporting the development of women within the engineering and project management disciplines. It has a focus on creating a supportive and inclusive industry environment as well as developing skills that will allow participants to thrive in Defence Industry.

“We need to increase the representation of women in Defence Industry to better reflect Australian society and strengthen the retention of the women Defence has recruited and trained, particularly in the areas of STEM” stated Minister Payne.

Phillipa Crane, Systems Engineer – CASG, a mentee in the 2017 program said *“I’ve gained a lot more confidence in myself; TFTC and my mentor gave me the courage to accept a new position completely outside my comfort zone, where I’ve had the opportunity to develop a lot of new skills. Over the course of the program I have learnt to make self-reflection and personal development an integral part of my working week, instead of being forgotten amongst all my other work, which will continue to influence my career well after the program finishes.”*

Suzanne Melotte, Project Manager – Beca and Director General Reserves – Forces Command, an incoming mentor in 2018 said *“I wish this program had been around 20 years ago, it would have saved me a lot of pain. I’m looking forward to sharing my experience so hopefully my mentee won’t make some of the same mistakes I did”*

More about TFTC: Established in 2015, the TFTC Mentoring Program provides women working within the engineering and project management disciplines in the Defence Industry the opportunity to work with a senior Defence Industry mentor. Over 12 months they develop skills and create a network designed to enhance the capability of the Defence Sector in Australia. www.tftc.net.au

For Further Information Contact:

Lauren Bachir, TFTC Mentoring Program
0448 009 693, lauren@tftc.net.au

