MEDIA RELEASE

7 July 2022

WOMEN OF CASTLE HILL ENCOURAGED TO APPLY FOR RETURN TO WORK GRANTS

Women looking for work will be able to apply for grants of up to \$5,000 to fund technology, training and work essentials to help them return to the workforce, thanks to a \$32 million investment in the recent NSW Budget.

Member for Castle Hill Ray Williams MP encouraged eligible women to apply for the Return to Work Program and tailored support from a Return to Work Coordinator.

"This is an opportunity for the women of Castle Hill to build the confidence and financial independence they need to return to the workforce," Mr Williams said.

"Women who are experiencing barriers re-entering the workforce can apply for grants of up to \$5,000 to help cover the cost of common financial obstacles such as work clothes or an internet connection.

"Now, more than ever, we need to support women to get into, and return to, the workforce. This program helps equip women with the information, technology and financial support they need to get back to work."

Minister for Women Bronnie Taylor said the positive results of the program demonstrated the value of this investment.

"The feedback from more than 1,500 women who have completed the program was that it works because of its flexibility and tailored approach. 65 per cent of women secured employment, 73 per cent applied for or started education and training while an incredible 98.5 per cent found the program helpful," Mrs Taylor said.

"I am proud to be part of a Government that looks at unique solutions for the big issues affecting women's workforce participation through the Women's Economic Opportunities Review."

The Return to Work Program will continue next financial year. Consideration will be provided to priority groups.

For more information, head to: www.service.nsw.gov.au/services/business-industries-and-employment/get-notified-about-return-work-phase-3/return-work-rtw

MEDIA: June Belkovskis 8882-9555