Around 30,000 workers attribute their employment to the WTC and now. So there’s a few things you might already know:

- Around 10,000 workers attribute their employment to the WTC.
- For several years industry has been trying to create a more diverse workforce. Yes progress is being made, but good progress is proving difficult – we need to do something different if we are going to get more women into the industrial workforce.
- More than 50% of the existing workforce are in the ‘Baby Boomer’ group and plan to retire over the next decade.
- The industrial area is set for a major expansion in the number of companies located there, and it has already started with arrival of industries associated with ‘Lithium Valley,’ and others.
- If we get the new Port in Kwinana, that expansion will be turbocharged.

The bottom line is this – over the next decade and beyond, industry in Kwinana is going to need thousands more workers. They will need to be skilled, and there will be much more diversity than there is now. But don’t automatically limit your thinking to the heavy or traditional trades only, and yes they will absolutely still be needed. Think also about careers in the fields of safety, process operation, environment, logistics, stores, technician, scientist, engineer, instrument electrical, electrical, advanced traditional trades, and then there are all of the management positions, and careers in commerce, accounting, finance, sales and marketing, and the list goes on and on.

Kwinana Industries Council has approached this diversity challenge by duplicating our annual iWOMEN project intake for Year 10 girls, and working with TAFE to set up a Year 11 & 12 pre-apprenticeship ‘Introduction to Careers in Industry’ course, and it starts in 2020. We’re going another step with this qualification.

We are seeking applications from current Year 10 female students who are interested in applying for the KIC Introduction to Careers in Industry (for Females), a new Certificate II in Engineering Pre-Apprenticeship, commencing 2020.

It is a two-year program which students complete during Year 11 and 12 alongside their school studies. Places are limited, the program intake is 18 students (max) per year.

The program is designed around industry’s desire to get more females into industry through greater gender diversity programs. The content gives students exposure to a range of apprenticeship pathways into industry.

Students remain enrolled full time at their current school, receive training one day per week (Friday) at South Metropolitan TAFE (Rockingham Campus) and spend time in work placements.

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