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**DIVERSE:** Niki Vincent . . . "The program will guide participants through a series of key modules."

## Taking women to the top

**FRANCES STEWART**

A LEADERSHIP program developed to get more South Australian women into executive roles will be launched this week.

The inaugural High Impact: Women in Leadership Program – a joint initiative of the Leaders Institute of SA and Locher Human Resources – is designed to respond to challenges women face in private and public sectors.

Research by the State Government found just 24 per cent of applications for executive pos-

itions in the SA public sector were from women, and that they were significantly under-represented at a senior level.

Leaders Institute chief executive Niki Vincent said participants would gain knowledge in a diverse range of areas.

"The program will guide participants through a series of key modules such as leadership fundamentals, personal leadership, team building and career and life planning," she said.

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## Taking businesswomen to the top

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“We also want to draw upon the experiences of the participants to provide insights that can assist both the private and public sector to develop a new generation of female executives.”

Locher organisational development director

Danielle Jiranek said changes needed to be made in order to achieve the state’s goal of ensuring that by 2014, that half of public sector executives are women.

“While progress is being made, there’s still a long way to go as current growth rates show it will take over 20 years for

women to make up 50 per cent of the executive workforce in the public sector,” she said.

The program starts with 16 participants on Thursday and more programs will begin in August.

Each program will run for six months and include workshops and leadership assignments.