

31 October 2019

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS FOR AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYERS

Two new scholarships aimed at supporting the development of current and future employers in Tasmania's agricultural industries have today been launched by Primary Employers Tasmania.

Members of Primary Employers Tasmania – the State's leading provider of expert and tailored industrial relations, human resource and workplace safety advice – as well as their employees and family, are invited to apply for the scholarships each valued at \$2500.

Primary Employers Tasmania President Felicity Richards said this new initiative was aimed at farmers aged under 35 years of age, based in Tasmania with at least two years' experience in primary industry.

"Our focus is to empower and upskill our employers by enabling them to participate in further education, a training activity or attend a conference or event relevant to achieving employment global best practice in our agricultural sector," Ms Richards said.

"It's not always easy to engage skilled and committed workers in regional areas, especially in a dynamic workplace environment like a farm.

"We envisage that these scholarships will expose our members to new innovations, technology, employment conditions and opportunities to position our farm owners and managers as 'employers of choice'."

Tasmania's agriculture, forestry and fishing sector employs 13,300 people, representing five per cent of the State's workforce, according to ABARE.

Ms Richards said to achieve the Tasmanian Government's vision to grow the value of the State's agriculture sector to \$10 billion a year by 2050, it is essential that farm employers are given every support possible to engage and manage the best workers.

"We need strong leaders and we need practical, well-timed and relevant training opportunities for both employers and employees to ensure we offer safe, compliant, fair and attractive workplaces across Tasmania's agricultural industries.

"Primary Employers Tasmania's Executive Committee looks forward to reviewing the scholarship applications and engaging with the successful candidates so their learnings can be shared with the wider industry."

Any member interested in applying for a Primary Employers Tasmania scholarship should email pet@primaryemployers.com.au, call (03) 6343-2244 or access the scholarship application form from the website www.primaryemployers.com.au. Primary Employers Tasmania membership application forms are also available on the website.

Applications for the first scholarship open today and close on 1 December 2019. The next scholarship will open mid January and close 28 February, followed by the second for 2020 opening 1 July and closing 31 July.

For more information, please contact:

-Felicity Richards, Primary Employers Tasmania President 0418 599 727