

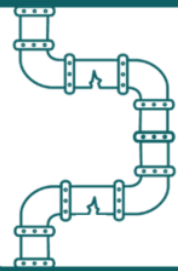


# Mentoring program for women economic students

Economists are central to decisions affecting the wellbeing of the community, and yet women are underrepresented in these influential roles.

Increasing female representation depends on attracting and retaining women in the 'economics pipeline'.

**Several factors may explain why there is a greater 'leakage' of women from economics studies and careers, including:**



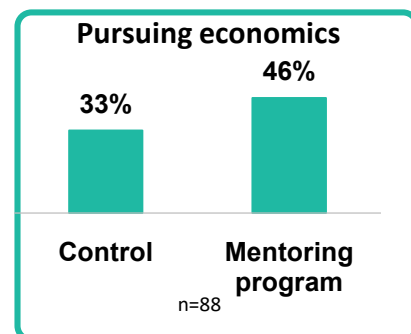
- **A lack of female role models**
- **Misperceptions about career paths for economics graduates**
- **Performing more strongly in other subjects relative to introductory economics**

The ACT WEN and BETA built a mentoring program to provide women studying economics at ANU with:

- A role model
- A broader perspective on career option
- An insight into practical applications of economics

Various sources of evidence suggest the mentoring program had a material impact on students' decisions to continue with economics.

**70 per cent** (n=30) of student respondents agreed they were more likely to pursue a job in economics due to the program.



'All in all I loved the program, it opened my eyes to the actual real world of economics and career prospects.'

- Student

'The meetings were effective at engaging on potential job opportunities and just general discussion to highlight life as an economist'

- Mentor



Mentoring programs should be considered in the suite of options for encouraging women students to pursue economics. However, the potential benefits need to be considered in the context of the program's costs and the moderate confidence we have in our results.