



# MARS Program *Thriving in Mining* training and tools

## About the MARS Program

The Mental Awareness Respect and Safety Program (MARS) is a whole-of-Government initiative announced by the McGowan Government in December 2021.

The MARS Program aims to support the mining sector to create safe, respectful and mentally healthy work environments, which support employees and the industry to thrive.

Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) is leading the program in partnership with the Mental Health Commission, the Equal Opportunity Commission and the Department of Communities.

The MARS Program is being rolled out in phases and includes a range of initiatives which are complementary and interdependent.

## Is the mining industry informing the MARS Program?

Engagement with mining companies, big and small, people working in the sector and representative industry groups are key elements in the overall Program.

Work is underway to support a coordinated approach to industry engagement associated with the various initiatives of the MARS Program.

## What is *Thriving in Mining* training and tools?

*Thriving in Mining* is one of the MARS Program initiatives developed by This Working Life, an expert workplace mental health consultancy.

*Thriving in Mining* training and tools will help to protect and strengthen workers' wellbeing. A series of training modules designed for mining sector frontline managers and workers will be available which cover the key concepts of mental health, respect, alcohol and other drugs, and legal rights and responsibilities.

## What experience does This Working Life have with the mining sector?

This Working Life has many years of experience in the mining and resources sector providing training, leadership development and onsite trauma support across the industry.

This Working Life was part of the team of researchers that investigated the impact of FIFO work arrangements on the mental health and wellbeing of FIFO workers.

## What will the *Thriving in Mining* customised training offer?

There is the opportunity to get involved by contributing to the development of *Thriving in Mining* training and tools and trialling the modules with your workers.

The customised training modules will:

- be designed for multiple uses including toolbox talks, pre-starts, in dongas or at home;
- include mining sector lived experience video stories for inclusion in the training, promotion within mining sector workplaces and via other mediums;
- be developed for both in person delivery, as well as an on-line version to meet workforce needs.

## Why is *Thriving in Mining* of value to your workplace?

*Thriving in Mining* understands there are unique challenges in the Western Australian mining industry that increase the potential for harm to workers' physical and mental health and well-being, such as: long distance remote working and travel; extended shift work; remote accommodation; exposure to health and safety hazards.

No matter the size of your workplace or the role that it has in the industry, the customised training modules will provide engaging and practical support for all staff to assist with establishing a psychologically safe, inclusive and respectful workplace.

## How can I get involved?

If you would like to get involved, the MARS webpage has an expression of interest form, where you can lodge details to find out more about the Program or customised training.

[Mental Awareness, Respect  
and Safety \(MARS\) Program  
\(www.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.wa.gov.au)

