

Leadership

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Cleaning company Australian Clean and Green general manager Charlie Aykroyd, pictured, is among 20 SA business leaders who will receive grants from the Industry Leaders Fund for professional studies. PROFESSIONAL growth that drives fast-growing SA businesses forward, including in the regions, will again be fostered through this year's Industry Leaders Fund grants.



The 20 recipients of close to \$200,000 from the ILF grants program were named last night.

Australian Clean and Green general manager Charlie Aykroyd received \$4000 towards a Professional Management Program with the University of Adelaide.

As manager of an SA-owned, national cleaning and waste manager company with active commercial and events contracts, Ms Aykroyd said she was looking at building

WINNER: Charlie Aykroyd from Australian Clean Green.

strong and holistic business foundations.

"I was really looking to do something that could help me learn different skills, including accounting and finances,

which I can bring back

to the company.

"The ILF grant application was an interesting process

because it helped to
be more introspective
about my professional
growth and pathway," she
said.

The defence industry was a big winner this year with PMB Defence chief executive Stephen Faulkner and ASC Shipbuilding's project manager Matt Sinnett-Jones both receiving \$20,000 to study at the Harvard Business School and IMD Switzerland, respectively. This year's grant winners also include leaders in Booleroo Centre, Penola, Cowell and Port Lincoln, ILF chief executive Geoff Vogt said. "Achieving

success for regional

leaders can have massive benefits for their communities and has the potential to slow down or arrest the population drain from regions to cities.

"We have been trying to get scholars from regions and hopefully next year will see a further wave of future leaders apply to advance their professional development."

Cowell-based powerline construction and electrical company Cowell Electric's chief executive Cameron Thompson will use his \$10,000 grant to undertake the Melbourne Business School's Advanced Management Program.

The new scholars were chosen from 53 applicants, and will attend programs offered by Harvard Business School, INSEAD, Melbourne Business School, the University of Adelaide, Stanford Graduate School of Business, the University of SA and IMD (Switzerland).

Now in its ninth year, the ILF program has awarded 142 scholars totalling \$1.73 million and provides a platform for the state's business entrepreneurs and leaders to fast-track their careers through the knowledge and experience gained from their educational opportunities.

Past ILF scholars include Supashock's Oscar Fiorinotto, Sage Automation's Andrew Downs, Woodside Cheese Wrights founder Kris Lloyd and Redarc managing director Anthony Kittel. The ILF is a non-government organisation funded by the private sector.

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