Application for STA scholarship for the Superstars of STEM program:

**Part A – Criteria: Able to demonstrate inability to pay**

While I am in employed work, I am solely responsible for caring and financially supporting my single mother who has a severe mental illness (schizophrenia) and is medically unable to work. She is on the disability pension. I am solely accountable for paying for her accommodation (she has her own small premises) and have been paying this for several years and am commitment to do so until she passes away. She is 52years old. I am her only child.

In addition, I am also the sole owner of my purchased residence. Therefore, I am responsible for two mortgages. My mother needs constant medical care and therefore does not reside with me.

This financial pressure impacts my ability to pay for the program. I am already engaging and paying a branding coach to help me kick-off my own business (see Part B).

**Part B –**

* **Representative of a minority group i.e. indigenous, LGBQTI, ESL, person with a disability, OR;**
* **Working and residing in remote or regional Australia, OR;**
* **Employed by a start-up that is no more than two years old, OR;**
* **Within two years of establishing your own business.**

I am an emerging entrepreneur and within two years of establishing my own business. I am hoping to grow and commercialise my two key ideas including: 1) provide a clean energy solution to support renewable gas including a tradable renewable gas certification that enables a market similar to the federal Large-scale generation certificates scheme and 2) Developing a program (including a key note speaking series) for creating a network of ‘intrapreneurs’. This network will support the growth and development of ‘change-makers’ within their own organisations for the greater good, including sustainability and diversity initiatives.

My commitment to establishing my own business includes:

1. Finalist for EnergyLab Women in Clean Energy fellowship – (acceptance announced mid-Sept), where I have initially pitched the above two ideas to grow into start-ups. The fellowship program is a feeder program specifically to help get more women into the EnergyLab's Pre-Acceleration Program and EnergyLab's Acceleration Program. The EnergyLab energy program is also EnergyLab's Acceleration Program was the first in Australia to focus on energy startups and is now one of Australia's largest acceleration programs of any kind.

1. In May 2020, I engaged Happiness Concierge for branding and speaking coaching which I am paying for.

Finally, I am also a person of colour who also has mental illness. I battle with depression and anxiety and have been treated by a psychologist for over ten years, using the mental health care plan system. I am a strong advocate for not just women in STEM succeeding, but showing others that you can still achieve your dreams, even if you have a mental illness such as depression and anxiety and have to manage it on a daily basis.