



# Women keen to step up to executive ranks

**JOANNA VAUGHAN**

THE growth in the number of women on boards is stalling across the country, but in South Australia young women are lining up to learn the skills.

Almost 100 women have enrolled in seminars run by the YWCA of Adelaide to learn about becoming a valued board member.

The latest Australian Census of women in leadership positions shows the number of women on boards and in executive management in ASX200

companies has dropped to its lowest level since 2004.

In SA the number of women on State Government-run boards has risen by about 11 per cent in the past four years to 44 per cent. The State Government aims to increase this to 50 per cent by 2010 as part of the state's Strategic Plan.

YWCA project officer Deborah Fehler said there had been a huge response to the program. "We originally hoped we might have 30 young women in-

terested, but we have increased the intake to 40 because the demand is so great," she said.

"We have also had to create a waiting list that now has more than 40 people on it."

Accounting student Marie Logan, 19, signed up for a seminar because she felt she had something to offer.

"I would like to sit on boards some day," she said. "It's a good way to help the community and make a difference."



**SIGNING UP:** Amy Bruce, Ann Perriam, Erica Krueger, Debotah Fehler and Marie Logan