



Chief Executive Women

Women leaders enabling women leaders

MEDIA RELEASE

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STEM Fellowship Winners Announced

The Minister for Women Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash and Chief Executive Women (CEW), today announced the winners of two fellowships to examine opportunities for Australia to increase female participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education.

Sarah Chapman, Manager Global Tropical Futures Project at the Department of Education in Queensland and Dr Rebecca Vivian, Research Fellow for the Computer Science Education Research Group at the University of Adelaide will receive the Australian Government funded fellowships.

Known as Barbara Cail STEM Fellows, Ms Chapman and Dr Vivian will undertake international research into best practice for promoting the participation of young people, particularly girls, in STEM fields during their education and career.

The research will address how STEM industries communicate their workforce needs for the future to young people, as well as parents, teachers and vocational counsellors.

President of CEW, Diane Smith-Gander, said an innovative and agile economy requires both men and women in senior executive positions, particularly within economy-building STEM industries.

“CEW’s partnership with the Australian Government will help to improve representation of Australian women in key growth industries that will be important for Australia’s future”.

The Fellows’ research will present tested international programs that may be considered for implementation in Australia.

CEW will publish the results of the Barbara Cail STEM Fellows’ research in 2017.

Minister Cash highlighted the commitment the Australian Government has made to support more women to succeed in STEM, through the National Innovation and Science Agenda.

“The Australian Government is proud to support women leaders in STEM and is working to create a 21st century economy built on the talents of our *entire* population.

This includes improving gender diversity in STEM by promoting increased female participation in STEM education.” Minister Cash said.

The aim is to support women at every stage of their careers—from students to junior researchers to senior leaders.



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Through the Women in STEM initiative, the Australian Government is providing \$13 million over five years to increase the number of women studying STEM subjects and pursuing careers in STEM industries.

ENDS

Media enquiries

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Background

[Chief Executive Women \(CEW\)](#) was established in 1985 by eighteen influential Australian women and now represents over 370 Australian women leaders from the corporate, public service, academic and not-for-profit sectors. Through its advocacy, targeted programs and scholarships CEW works to remove the barriers to women's progression and ensure equal opportunity for prosperity.

Barbara Cail AO was the Founding President of CEW in 1985 and has been a constant advocate for women and for STEM participation. Recipients of Barbara Cail STEM Fellowships will be known as 'Barbara Cail Fellows' in her honour.

CEW's partnership with the Office for Women will help to improve equal economic participation and secure opportunities for Australian women.