



Chief Executive Women

Women leaders enabling women leaders

New scholarship recognises leadership potential of Indigenous women

SYDNEY, 28 May, 2012: The leadership potential of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women has been recognised by an inaugural Australian business school scholarship. The initiative is jointly funded by Chief Executive Women (CEW) and the Australian Graduate School of Management (AGSM).

CEW and AGSM Executive Education are pleased to announce Arabella Douglas, Director, Regional Services, NSW Family and Community Services – Aboriginal Housing Office and Melissa Williams, Director, Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment and Engagement, University of Western Sydney as the recipients of the scholarship. These women are among the first to attend AGSM's Women in Leadership program.

Melissa Williams comes from a family of pioneering female women, with her aunty being the first Indigenous university graduate in 1959. She is a professional career-driven mother who has been highly successful in making a difference by giving back to the community. Melissa is actively participating in National Reconciliation Week today with her aunty.

"It is wonderful to be given this opportunity to be mentored by executive women and to develop the skills required to take me to the next level of leadership in my career," she says.

CEW President, Belinda Hutchinson says, " This initiative supports our goal of enabling a broad range of Australian women to reach leadership positions."

According to a recent McKinsey report organisations with women in senior management have been shown to perform better than those with no women at the top. Yet women make up just 14 percent of Fortune 500 executive committees, and there are fewer women CEOs.

"The lack of women in senior positions – in the corporate, government and not-for-profit sectors – contributes to Australia's growing talent shortage. We're essentially wiping out half of our working population. It's not only a loss of potential talent, but it's economically a flawed and wasteful way of doing business," said Hutchinson.

Rosemary Howard, Executive Director and Conjoint Professor at AGSM Executive Education, highlights the criticality of genderdiversity. "In an increasingly competitive global economy, Australia cannot afford to lag behind – not only the developed but also the developing world – in getting women into leadership roles."

"In Australia women have comprised the majority of university graduates in Commerce,



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Economics and Law – all those feeder disciplines into leadership roles – for over two decades now. There are 1.3 women to every one man in our university system – we are investing a lot of money in educating our women. Despite this, there are comparatively few women on the senior leadership career path,” notes Howard.

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For more information or to arrange an interview please contact:

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About Women in Leadership Scholarship

Chief Executive Women (CEW) and AGSM Executive Education and have partnered to offer two scholarships to women who are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent to participate in the AGSM Women in Leadership Program. This is an opportunity for women with significant managerial experience to build their leadership and change agent capabilities and achieve strong outcomes for themselves as well as their organisations. The scholarships will be sufficient to cover course fees of \$14,000, accommodation, meals and travel to/from the program and additional course-related costs.

About CEW

CEW is a member-based organisation, comprising over 200 of Australia’s leading business women. CEW has a shared goal to facilitate greater representation of women at senior levels of Australian business, government and the not-for-profit sectors. CEW’s core values are: collegiality, altruism, authenticity, respect and, vision. Go to <http://www.ceb.org.au> for more information.

About AGSM Executive Education

AGSM Executive Education, part of the Australian School of Business, UNSW, is one of Asia Pacific’s leading providers of executive education, providing participants with access to the latest international research and cutting edge thinking on key business issues such as productivity. AGSM Executive Education offers a portfolio of services including Custom, Tailored, Open and Consortium Programs as well as Coaching and Executive Development Services.