



Chief Executive Women

Women leaders enabling women leaders

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders win Chief Executive Women scholarships

Chief Executive Women today announced two Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have been awarded executive education scholarships to attend one of the world's top business schools, INSEAD.

Chief Executive Women is the pre-eminent organisation representing Australia's 300 most senior women from the corporate, public service, academic and not-for-profit sectors. Its mission is "women leaders enabling women leaders".

The two scholarships are the final part of CEW's 2014 scholarships program of 16 awards worth more than \$250,000, and are awarded in partnership with the Roberta Sykes Foundation. The winners are:

Venessa Curnow, Director, National Congress of Australia's First Peoples. INSEAD Leading For Results, Singapore (for middle and senior managers).

Curnow is an Ait Koedal and Sumu woman, tracing her ancestry from Saibai Island in the Torres Strait and Keith in South Australia. She is also a member of National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dementia Advisory Group (NATSIDAG), and Treasurer of Parramatta State School Parents and Citizens Association.

Curnow said: "Australia needs more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in executive leadership and board roles because of the values we bring. We have a rich history and intimate understanding of the environment that is totally under-utilised in our economy and the top echelons of Australian life. This diversity would enrich decision-making at all levels of the economy."

Stacey Broadbent, Manager, Aboriginal Housing Office NSW. INSEAD Learning To Lead, Singapore.

Broadbent is a Tharawal woman from South West Sydney with close ties to the Yuin and Dhunghutti Nations. She has focused her working life on improving housing outcomes including sustainable and quality housing for Aboriginal people.

Broadbent said: "I strive to be a good leader and to give back when I can. But I want to do more – to make decisions that make a positive, direct impact on my people. This opportunity and recognition will help me understand what skills I can develop and embed into all aspects of my life."

Christine Christian, CEW President, said: "Helping women to achieve their potential as leaders is the mission of Chief Executive Women and the focus of all our fundraising efforts. CEW is delighted to be able to work with the Roberta Sykes Foundation to identify and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women leaders so we can create a vibrant pipeline of women in executive ranks and boardrooms."

Other awards announced today are:

Wharton School Executive Development Program, (USA): Cecile Wake, Vice-President Commercial at QGC, a subsidiary of BG Group, which is developing the Queensland Curtis LNG gas project.

INSEAD Leading for Results (Singapore): Lori Callahan, General Manager, Allianz Australia Ltd; Alison Morley, Manager, Project Generation & Geological Services, Iluka Resources Ltd, and Claire Negus, Director Commercial, Roy Hill.

INSEAD Learning to Lead (Singapore): Renee Garner, General Manager, Risk, Regulation and Compliance - Retail, Energy Australia; Kate Holling, Superintendent Drill & Blast, BHPBilliton; and Jessica McCarthy, Head of Investment Relationships, AMP Capital.

CEW is delighted to announce its executive education scholarships program for 2015 will include 16 scholarships, all of which are open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants. Two of these scholarships will be offered in partnership with the Roberta Sykes Foundation. For details, please visit CEW's website: <http://www.cew.org.au/education/scholarships/scholarships-program-2015>

Media contacts

For more information about CEW, contact Amanda Wilson on 0418 391 201.

Peter Waters, Chair of the Roberta Sykes Foundation, is available to be interviewed on 02- 9263 4233.