



Chief Executive Women

Women leaders enabling women leaders

MEDIA RELEASE

CEW members elect Diane Smith-Gander as President

Sydney, Wednesday November 26 2014: Chief Executive Women today announced Diane Smith-Gander will succeed Christine Christian as President of Australia's leading organisation for women, effective 1 January 2015.

The election of Ms Smith-Gander was the result of the first ballot of members in the almost-30 years since CEW was founded. She is Chairman of Transfield Services Ltd, a non-executive director of Wesfarmers Ltd, and a commissioner of Tourism WA. You can find her CEW member page [here](#).

Christine Christian, CEW President, said: "CEW has never had a stronger voice as an organisation that advocates for women's leadership. We are at the centre of what will come to be seen as a complete transformation in the way the equal participation of women at all levels of Australian society is accepted and supported.

"CEW began as a small networking group to support women in their careers. But it quickly grew into an organisation that now offers some \$250,000 worth of scholarships to support women executives. We engage directly with business leaders through our CEO Conversations program, we support the pipeline of women executives through our year-long Leaders' Program, and we run rigorous research projects into increasing gender diversity.

"It is a privilege to have been at the helm of CEW during such an exciting time of achievements. The decision to run a ballot to elect the leader to take our organisation into the future is a sign of the tremendous growth in our membership and our voice. So I am delighted that I'll be handing the leadership baton to such an exceptional successor as Diane Smith-Gander in 2015.

"Diane will provide strong drive and leadership as CEW continues its work," said Ms Christian.

Ms Smith-Gander said: "I am absolutely delighted to be elected President of Chief Executive Women for the next two years incorporating the 30th anniversary year.

"CEW feels unique among organisations in addressing gender diversity. We are women leaders enabling women leaders through direct, personal action. It is CEW's 'do it rather than talk about it' attitude that inspired me to join this dynamic group," said Ms Smith-Gander.

Media contact

Amanda Wilson amanda@amandawilson.com.au

About Chief Executive Women

[Chief Executive Women](#) is the leading organisation representing Australia's most senior women leaders from the corporate, public service, academic and not-for-profit sectors. Their shared vision is "women leaders enabling women leaders".