



## Chief Executive Women

Women leaders enabling women leaders

### MEDIA RELEASE – MONDAY 20 OCTOBER 2014

#### QGC executive wins new \$38,000 Chief Executive Women scholarship

Chief Executive Women (CEW) today announced nine executive education scholarships for women leaders. The scholarships complete CEW's 2014 scholarships program of 16 awards worth more than \$250,000.

**Cecile Wake**, 44, is the winner of the top award, worth \$38,000, to attend the two-week Executive Development Program at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, USA. She is the Vice-President Commercial at natural gas company QGC, which is developing the Queensland Curtis LNG project. Wake is a former corporate partner at an international law firm and an athlete who represented Australia in Modern Pentathlon at seven World Championships.

Said Wake: "The opportunities that CEW creates for women are transformational, both for the recipients and for the pipeline of female leadership talent in Australia. The Wharton EDP was truly one of the most challenging, affirming and engaging experiences of my life. I aspire to lead a major resources company one day - to influence and shape the outcomes of the business and communities in which I work. So I was hungry for this opportunity to learn from world-class thought leaders at Wharton and to accelerate my leadership journey."

**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. Not all women are born leaders, but many leaders are born women. CEW will continue to identify them and support them."

**Liz Dibbs**, head of CEW's Scholarships program, said: "We believe our program is unique because it helps Australia's women leaders of tomorrow take charge of their careers and builds a vibrant pipeline of women who are ready and confident to grasp leadership opportunities. In awarding the Wharton scholarship we were looking for a talented, high-performing executive who needed the step-up this course provides. Cecile Wake ticked all the boxes. I'm sure she is someone we will be hearing much more of in the resources sector in the future."

Other awards announced today are:

#### INSEAD Leading for Results (Singapore)

- Lori Callahan, General Manager, Allianz Australia Ltd
- Venessa Curnow, Director, National Congress of Australia's First Peoples (Awarded in partnership with the Roberta Sykes Foundation)
- Alison Morley, Manager, Project Generation & Geological Services, Iluka Resources Ltd
- Claire Negus, Director Commercial, Roy Hill

#### INSEAD Learning to Lead (Singapore)

- Stacey Broadbent, Manager, Aboriginal Housing Office NSW. (Awarded in partnership with the Roberta Sykes Foundation)
- Renee Garner, General Manager, Risk, Regulation and Compliance - Retail, Energy Australia
- Katie Holling, Superintendent Drill & Blast, BHPBilliton
- Jessica McCarthy, Head of Investment Relationships, AMP Capital

CEW has also launched its 2015 program of 16 scholarships, including to attend the Advanced Management Program at INSEAD in France, to Wharton School's Executive Development Program, to the Harvard University Women's Leadership Program, to INSEAD Singapore, and to the AGSM. Details are here: <http://www.cew.org.au/education/scholarships/scholarships-program-2015>

#### Media contacts

To interview Cecile Wake, call QGC's Kester Hubbard on 0408 727 261

To interview CEW's Liz Dibbs or Christine Christian contact Amanda Wilson on 0418 391 201.

#### About Chief Executive Women

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". [www.cew.org.au](http://www.cew.org.au)