

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Leadership potential of all women a top priority**

#### ***Scholarships aim to guide women into leadership roles***

**Under embargo until midnight, Thursday 7 March 2013, Sydney:** Four Australian women have been awarded scholarships to attend the Women in Leadership program at the Australian Graduate School of Management this year.

With the aim of encouraging greater diversity in the participation of women in leadership roles, the scholarships are awarded in two categories to women of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage and to women working part-time. This is the second year the scholarships have been awarded, through joint sponsorship by Chief Executive Women (CEW) and the Australian Graduate School of Management (AGSM).

The recipients of the scholarships for managers working on a part time basis are:

- Liane Sayer-Roberts: Liane owns and manages award-winning public relations and events agency Sauce Communications, in Leeton, New South Wales and manages a team of 11 public relations professionals
- Claire Boardman: Claire has recently been appointed Deputy Director of RHD Australia, based at the Menzies School of Health Research in Darwin, and is the immediate past president of the Australasian College of Infection Prevention and Control.

The recipients of the scholarship for managers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage are:

- Anusha Duray: Anusha is the Aboriginal Projects coordinator, Business Solutions at Enterprise Training Company in Coffs Harbour and is a director of NSW Women's Legal Service and a member of the Aboriginal Women's Consultation Network
- Glenda Kickett: Glenda is the Executive Manager of Centrecare's Djooraminda office in Lockridge, Western Australia where she is responsible for managing its Indigenous programs. Glenda is the chair of NAIDOC Perth, and is completing a PhD in social work from the University of Western Australia.

Through the Women in Leadership Program, CEW and AGSM aim to give women with significant managerial experience access to executive-level training and education, and the necessary skills and encouragement to overcome some of the barriers that have been found to prevent women from reaching the top in their organisations.

AGSM Women in Leadership Program Director Rosamund Christie says "the course aims to build women's capabilities to be more self-aware, resilient and adaptive in their roles. The idea behind the program is for participants to develop the confidence and capability to engage their peers in constructive conversations, to challenge unconscious bias in organisations, and ultimately to increase the involvement of women in decision making at senior management levels."

Chair of the CEW Scholarship Committee Liz Dibbs says:

“We are delighted that this year’s scholarship recipients include women from across regional Australia where often women who work part time or are from Indigenous backgrounds don’t have access to this kind of learning opportunity.

We know from research that due to a range of issues, women are more likely to leave the workforce at critical stages during their career development. Unconscious bias in organisations and building resilience among women are challenges that this course aims to address.

The more skills women have to counter these issues, the more women we should see taking up senior management positions, and we hope that the CEW and AGSM scholarship program highlights the importance of organisations investing in women through providing executive education opportunities at the right time in their careers.”

The Women in Leadership program will be delivered from May-December 2013 across four modules plus coaching at the Australian Graduate School of Management. Mentors for the scholarship recipients are also identified and work with the women throughout the year.

In 2012, the inaugural program featured presentations from senior business leaders Sally MacDonald, Larke Riemer, Director, Women’s Markets Westpac Banking Corporation, Cassandra Kelly, Joint CEO, Pottinger and Cheryl Kernot, Director of Social Business, Centre for Social Impact (CSI).

Past participant, Arabella Douglas, Social Sustainability Manager, Barangaroo South, Lend Lease is full of praise for the high profile key presenters and program leaders.

“It felt so liberating to have powerful women demonstrating their brilliant finesse at managing family life, community responsibilities and demanding professional roles” she says. “It doesn’t matter if you lead a country, a political party or an organisation – you must genuinely engage with others and tap into innovation and creativity to be an effective leader.”

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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 four scholarships to women who work on a part-time basis or who are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, to participate in the AGSM Women in Leadership Program. This objective of this initiative is to encourage greater diversity in the participation of women in leadership roles. The scholarships will be sufficient to cover course fees of \$14,000, accommodation, most meals and travel to/from the program and additional course related costs.



### **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.

### **About Chief Executive Women**

Chief Executive Women (CEW) is one of Australia's leading organisations supporting female leadership in Australia. Its members include over 260 of Australia's women leaders. CEW's goal is to facilitate greater representation of women at senior levels of Australian business, government and the not-for-profit sectors. CEW provides scholarship, mentoring and networking to talented women to help them attain leadership roles in Australia and undertakes research and provides diagnostic tools to assist organisations improve the development and retention of women talent. For more information, visit [cew.org.au](http://cew.org.au)