



Chief Executive Women

Women leaders enabling women leaders

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **2018 CEW Scholars: Fiona David and Anna Leibel head to MIT Sloan**

Chief Executive Women (CEW) announce the winners of two scholarships to study innovation at one of the world's top business schools, MIT Sloan in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Fiona David, inaugural Research Chair of the Minderoo Foundation and Anna Leibel, Chief Information Officer at UniSuper will attend the *Driving Strategic Innovation* program at MIT in September this year.

Announcing the winners, Deb O'Toole, CEW Scholarships Committee member says: "Innovation is recognised as a key driver of productivity growth and is therefore vital to Australia's long-term prosperity."

"CEW is delighted to offer Fiona and Anna the opportunity to study with world-leading experts and further develop their ability to drive innovation within their respective organisations."

"Acquiring the right skills at the right time can make all the difference in the careers of talented executive women. CEW's scholarship program supports the development of women leaders by helping them take that next step."

### **The winners**

**Fiona David** is inaugural Research Chair of the Minderoo Foundation, a philanthropic organisation established in 2001 by Andrew and Nicola Forrest with a mandate to support initiatives that focus on some of society's most pressing challenges.

A lawyer and criminologist, Fiona has worked for more than twenty years at the intersection of research and human rights. Her role at the Minderoo Foundation is to work with the leadership team to deliver a coherent and robust research program that informs and enables the achievement of the Foundation's diverse outcomes.

"Incremental change is not an option when the challenges you are talking about are modern slavery, loss of food supply due to over-fishing, or lethal forms of cancer. We have to find ways of achieving major social breakthroughs, so we can all enjoy a world that is safer, healthier, more just and humane."

"For us to create lasting, positive change we need to think and act very differently. Innovation is a verb not a noun - and the MIT course is focused on how to live and work like that every day."

**Anna Leibel** is Chief Information Officer for UniSuper, one of Australia's largest super funds with over \$69 billion in net funds under management. Her role is to deliver a new IT strategy that prioritises the member and employer experience, modernises the way the fund brings value to its members and employers and keeps information secure and safe. Anna's cross-

industry career spans more than two decades in transformation programs, management consulting and technology start-ups, and she has held senior consulting and general management roles with PwC, Telstra and NAB.

“The Australian superannuation industry is ripe for disruption, be it through legislative change, the challenge of engaging the wider population in their super or the speed at which technology is emerging. Innovation will be a crucial differentiator now and in the future.

“The MIT scholarship will help me better engage with stakeholders to demonstrate the value of harnessing technology and innovation to improve the member and employer experience and drive business growth.”

### **The scholarship**

The scholarships will enable Fiona and Anna to attend the *Driving Strategic Innovation* program at MIT Sloan in September this year.

*Driving Strategic Innovation* is a joint program between MIT Sloan and IMD that brings together the latest technology research from MIT Sloan and the latest leadership knowledge from IMD. The program provides participants with the opportunity to learn how to manage innovation within their organisations. It knits together innovation, marketing and product development, business model opportunities, value-chain design, project execution and talent management in an end-to-end roadmap for achieving breakthrough performance.

The scholarships are part of the 2018 CEW Scholars program, which is providing 18 talented Australian women with the opportunity to take their careers to the next level by supporting executive education at internationally acclaimed business schools.

### **ENDS**

#### **About CEW Scholars ([www.cew.org.au/scholarships](http://www.cew.org.au/scholarships))**

*The CEW Scholars program enables women leaders by supporting them at critical junctures in their careers, from their first management roles to top executive positions. More than 150 women have been awarded scholarships to business schools in Australia and internationally since CEW commenced its executive program for women leaders in 1992.*

#### **CEW Scholars program is funded through the CEW annual dinner and the generosity of sponsors including:**

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#### **About Chief Executive Women ([www.cew.org.au](http://www.cew.org.au))**

*Chief Executive Women is the pre-eminent organisation representing more than 500 of Australia's most senior women from the corporate, public, academic and not-for-profit sectors. Its mission is “women leaders enabling women leaders”. Through advocacy, targeted programs and scholarships, CEW works to remove the barriers to women's progression and ensure equal opportunity for prosperity. CEW offers innovative and substantive programs aimed at enabling women's participation and future leadership.*

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