



Chief Executive Women

Women leaders enabling women leaders

MEDIA RELEASE

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2018 CEW Scholar: Kia Dowell is going to Harvard Kennedy School

Chief Executive Women (CEW) in partnership with Roberta Sykes Indigenous Education Foundation (RSIEF) announce Kia Dowell has won one of three scholarships to attend the highly regarded Harvard Kennedy School in October this year.

Announcing the winners of this year's CEW & RSIEF scholarships, which were offered to middle and senior women managers who are of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Heritage, CEW Scholarships Committee Member Kate Aitken, says: "CEW is proud to partner with the Roberta Sykes Indigenous Education Foundation to support talented Indigenous women at critical stages in their careers.

"To realise the benefits we know that diversity can deliver, Australia must get a critical mass of women in leadership roles. CEW's scholarship program provides women executives with the skills, networks and confidence to help them take the necessary steps towards the top job," says Kate.

Richard Potok, Executive Director of the Roberta Sykes Indigenous Education Foundation, and CEO of the Aurora Education Foundation, says: "These scholarships provide a fantastic opportunity for high-achieving Indigenous women to develop further the skills that are essential for leadership success.

"Kia is an outstanding candidate, and I look forward to continuing to work with her as she progresses in her career and continues to create positive change for Indigenous Australians," says Richard.

The winner

Kia Dowell is head of Strategy and Innovation at Indigenous Business Australia. Kia is a Gija woman from Warmun Community (Turkey Creek) in the East Kimberley of Western Australia. Her traditional Aboriginal name is Wadjbarreyal, and her skin name is Nangala.

Kia will be attending the *Creating Collaborative Solutions: Innovations in Governance Program* at Harvard Kennedy School.

"The course will help provide me with new insight, knowledge and clarity on how multiple sectors can truly start to collaborate *with* indigenous people rather than for us. When we work to leverage as many partners and perspectives as possible, the potential for long-term success is amplified," says Kia.

The scholarship

The CEW & RSIEF scholarships will enable Kia to attend a program at Harvard Kennedy School, a graduate and professional school that brings together students, scholars and practitioners who combine thought and action to make the world a better place.

The *Creating Collaborative Solutions: Innovations in Governance Program* is designed for leaders in the public, non-profit and corporate sectors who see their roles as reaching across these traditionally separate spheres to build new structures that can produce significant, valuable change.

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About CEW Scholars (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)

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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